

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-058

CONTENTS

25 March 1988

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 March Middle East and South Asia Review	1
--	---

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Perez de Cuellar Refuses Arab Request on PLO [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Mar]	3
Chance for Improved Egyptian-Arab Relations [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Mar]	3

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Conference Continues	4
Sa'ud al-Faysal Address [SPA]	4
YAR Minister's Speech [Sanaa]	8
Pakistan's Haq on Afghan Issue [Amman JORDAN TIMES 24-25 Mar]	9
'Abd al-Majid News Conference [Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 24 Mar]	10
'Abd al-Majid Speech 24 Mar [MENA]	11
'Aziz Views Resolution on War [Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 24 Mar]	11
Iraq Responds to Iran's Charges [Amman Television]	12
Iranian 'Memo' of Withdrawal [Amman Television]	12
Iranian Delegation Departs [KUNA]	12
Al-Nimr on Iran's Departure [Amman]	12
MENA on Iran's Withdrawal	13
Egypt Venue of 1990 Meeting [INA]	13
Closing Session Begins 25 Mar [Amman]	13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid Meets With Klibi, FRG's Genscher	14
Palestinian Issue Discussed [Hamburg DPA]	14
Genscher Comments on Talks	14
Burkina Faso's Compaore Arrives for Visit	14
Presidents Resume Talks	14
Attending Officials Listed	15
Agreements Signed [Ouagadougou]	15
Departure Reported	15
Moroccan Minister Visits for Locust Talks	15
FLN's Bouhara Receives Hungarian Official	16

Chad

Opposition Group Rejects New GUNT Accord [AFP]	16
Sudanese Ba'th Party Delegation Holds Talks	16

Egypt

Mubarak on Saudi Missiles, Israeli Response	16
Message Sent to Reagan	17
'Abd al-Majid on Gulf War, Other Issues	18
Opposition Condemns Emergency Law Extension [AL-SHA'B 22 Mar]	19

Further on Jordanian Speaker's Visit to Cairo	20
Meets With Al-Mahjub	20
Talks With Sidqi	20
'Source' Says No Military Units Sent to UAE	20
Argentine Delegation Arrives for Visit	20
Mubarak Given Message	21
Al-Baz Confers With Bruneian Foreign Minister	21
Trade Union Delegation Leaves for Moscow	21
Briefs	21
Radio, TV Agreement	21

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables ICO Conference in Amman	21
Al-Qadhdhafi, Iranian Envoy Discuss 'Issues' [Tehran IRNA]	22
Al-Qadhdhafi Inaugurates River Project Roof	22
Al-Qadhdhafi Honored on Visit To Ajdabiya	22
PFLP Secretary General Habash Begins Visit	22
Received by Jallud	22
Agreements With Soviet, Burkinabe Students	23
Citizens No Longer Banned From Going to Egypt [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Mar]	23

Mauritania

President Receives Arab League-PLO Group	23
Press Agency Agreement Signed With Algeria	24

Morocco

FRG's Bangemann Rejects EC Membership Request [Hamburg DPA]	24
Filali Views Western Sahara, Algeria, 'Uprising' [Amman AL-RA'Y 22 Mar]	24

Sudan

Further on Committee Meeting With Ethiopia	25
Ways To Develop Ties Discussed	25
Talks 'Positive, Constructive'	25
Military Spokesman Denies BBC 'Massacre' Report	25
Minister of Defense Views Security in South [Cairo UKTUBAR 20 Mar]	25

Tunisia

Libya's Jallud Arrives in Tunis on Visit	28
Makes Arrival Statement [JANA]	28
Holds Talks With Ben Ali [Tripoli Television]	28
Comments on Maghreb Ties, Talks [JANA]	29
Ends Visit, Departs 20 Mar	30
Energy Cooperation Meeting With Libya, Algeria	31
Gas Pipeline Agreement Signed	31
Democratic Destourian Rally Papers Renamed	31

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Says Relations With Iran 'Good' [ARAB TIMES 23 Mar]	32
KUNA Cites Interview with Ambassador to U.S.	32

PDRY

Al-'Attas Meets With Soviet Delegation	33
Ministers Visit Production Area	33
Al-'Attas Views Peninsular, Regional Issues [London AL-MAJALLAH 23-29 Mar]	33

Saudi Arabia

'UKAZ Defends 'Responsible' Arms Purchases [22 Mar]	35
---	----

Yemen Arab Republic

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Sanza, Met by Salih	36
--	----

IRAQ

'Aziz Interviewed; Discusses Loss of Halabjah [Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 25 Mar]	38
'Aziz Discusses British, Soviet, PRC Stands [WAKH]	39
Official Cited on Missile Attacks, Relations [KUNA]	40
Defense Minister Inspects Army Positions	40
'Arafat Arrives for 'Several Days' Visit	40
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities	40
Communique Cites Air Attacks	40
Missile Hits Baghdad	41
Communique 3,095	41
Baghdad Hit Again	42
Jets Hit 2 'Maritime Targets'	42
8 Iranian Aircraft Destroyed	42

ISRAEL

Ben-Aharon Views Saudi Missiles, Peace Process	43
DAVAR Reports Sinyurah's 7-Point Peace Plan [24 Mar]	43
Abba Eban Comments on Dialogue With Palestinians [Brussels LE SOIR 22 Mar]	44
Tabah Official Says U.S. Pressing for Compromise [AL HAMISHMAR 24 Mar]	45
Arms Cooperation With Argentina Reported [DAVAR 24 Mar]	45
Sharon Urges Law To Deport Stone Throwers	45
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories	46
2 Killed, 3 Policemen Wounded	46
'Minor' Incidents, Arrests	46
Curfews Imposed in Gaza Camps	46
Curfews, Blockades in W. Bank	46
Labor Party Elects Peres Chairman, Party Leader	46
Peres Coins 'Campaign Motto'	47
Knesset Approves State Budget, Details Reported [DAVAR 24 Mar]	47

LEBANON

Junblatt Holds Discussions With Iranian Envoy	49
Local, Arab Issues Reviewed [VOM]	49
U.S. Efforts Said 'Futile' [VOL]	49
Iran's Financial Involvement, Spending Detailed [London AL-TADAMUN 19 Mar]	49
Birri Views Attempts To Create 'Differences'	50
Group Denies 'Silco' Hostages in Raided Base [RFL]	50
Further Reportage on Israeli Attacks 23-24 Mar	50
Bases, Ammo Dumps Attacked [VOL]	50
Al-Huss Comments	50
Reports of Resistance Military Operations	51
Israeli-SLA Patrol Attacked	51
Bomb Detonated	51
Briefs	51
Envoy to Chile Approved	51

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Keshtmend Address at Balkh University Opening	52
Amin Receives Bulgarian Trade Delegation	55
Politburo Discusses Formation of New Province	55
'Extremists' Attack Villages in Konarha	55
Briefs	55
Protocol With Turkmen SSR	55

Bangladesh

Government Decides To Release 875 Prisoners	55
Foreign Secretary on Ershad Visit to Thailand	56
President Criticized by Awami League Leader [THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 21 Mar]	56

India

Italian Airline Captain Shot at Bombay Airport	56
Iranian 'Gunman' Captured [AFP]	56
MP Notes Turkish Nuclear Equipment to Pakistan	57
Pakistani Leaders Greeted on National Day	57
Official Says Golden Temple Situation 'Serious'	57
'Big Fire' Breaks Out at Ammunition Depot	57

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference	57
Khamene'i Urges International Isolation of Iraq	62
Embassy Denies Bombing of Turkish Border Area	62
Iraqi Air Raids Discussed	63
ICO Planning To Issue 'Baseless Resolution'	63
Commander Discusses 'Val-Fajr 10' Operations	63
Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue	66
Baghdad, Basra Struck	66
2 Missiles Hit Baghdad	66
Communique 3,151 Issued	66
Captured Iraqi Officers Named	66
Loss of Aircraft Denied	67
Iraqi Counterattack Repelled	67
Air Raids Launched	67
Basra, Khanaqin Shelled	67

Pakistan

Further on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn	67
Feted at Luncheon	67
Visits Aeronautical Complex	68
Antiaircraft Gun Ammunition Factory Inaugurated	68

Sri Lanka

LTTE Political Adviser Flees From 'Cadres'	68
10 Die in Batticaloa Violence; Curfew Continues [AFP]	69
UNP Candidate Killed; Muslim Homes Burned [Delhi]	69
Jayewardene Swears in Rehabilitation Minister	70

25 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD251503 [Editorial report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Press Conference—Iran has the technology to manufacture chemical weapons, and there is "no guarantee" that it will continue to refrain from employing them in battle. Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted to reporters at a press conference broadcast by Tehran television.

The speaker called for Iraq to be "clearly, explicitly, and decisively condemned" for its use of chemical weapons. He accused the United States and France of obstructing efforts to send a UN expert to investigate the situation in Halabjah, and he criticized the UN secretary general for not taking more active measures in this regard.

Regarding relations with the superpowers, Hashemi-Rafsanjani charged that the USSR is "pursuing a policy of hypocrisy and duplicity." The missiles used by Iraq in the war of the cities were not only provided by the Soviet Union but they were modified using "new parts" of Soviet manufacture. "This issue continues to be a serious matter," Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared. In answer to a question on the status of relations with the United States, he stated that "hostility rules" between the two countries.

Furthermore, the speaker stated his opinion that the "Western powers, including the Russians," oppose or neutralize all efforts toward a "just end" to the Iran-Iraq war; that is, Iran's military or moral victory. Hashemi-Rafsanjani repeated Iran's insistence that the aggressor be identified before a cease-fire can be instituted. Iran has the "power" to gain its objectives by the use of force, Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned, and he called attention to the "Val-Fajr-10" operations as an example of the Iranian military's ability to punish Iraq and retaliate for "fresh mischiefs," especially the "arming of Iraq with long-range missiles."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that while Iran favors "a strong defense structure in Islamic countries," it considers Saudi Arabia's recent acquisition of Chinese-made missiles a "mischievous deed." Iran can deal with "any bad intention toward the Islamic revolution," he said.

Concerning Iran's ability to assist in obtaining the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that his country was "willing to help," but he asked: "How can we help those who are constantly hostile toward us?" He claimed that no progress has been made on Iran's offer to work toward the release of Anglican envoy Terry Waite if the Archbishop of Canterbury helped obtain information on Iranian hostages thought to be held by Lebanese Phalangists. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stressed that he had "no information" on Terry Waite.

Battle Reports—Between 24 and 25 March, Iran fired 12 surface-to-surface missiles at "military and industrial" targets in Baghdad, Basra, Khanaqin, and Mandali in reprisal for ongoing Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities. Tehran radio reported. INA reported 83 casualties in the Iranian missile attacks on Baghdad, adding that a maternity hospital was damaged.

An Iranian military communique on the fifth stage of the "Val-Fajr-10" operations, announced that the Iranian forces were 8 km east of the Iraqi city of Sayyid Sadiq. Tehran radio reported. The communique updated the Iraqi casualty count to 1,000 and the number of POW's to 410. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied Iranian claims that an Iranian offensive had been launched in northern Iraq. Iraqi artillery and aircraft have dealt "violent blows" to Iranian positions, the spokesman contended, and he labeled Iranian reports on the battle and capture of troops "false."

The Iranian envoy in Turkey was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, IRNA reported, and given an official protest under the "vain pretext" that Iranian jets had violated Turkish airspace and bombed its border area while conducting an operation against Iraqi positions. The Iranian envoy in return called on the Turkish Government to prevent Iraq from using Turkey's airspace to bomb Iran.

An Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio announced that four Iraqi planes were downed in the northern sector 25 March. Voice of the Masses radio subsequently reported that another four Iranian F-5 planes were downed and four helicopters were destroyed in the same sector.

Regarding the previous day's action in the north, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied that Iran downed a jet fighter and a helicopter gunship in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational area. A WIH spokesman cited by IRNA termed "pure fabrication" Iraqi claims that three F-4's and two helicopters were downed.

In the Gulf, Iraqi warplanes carried out "successful" raids against two large maritime targets off the Iranian coast, Voice of the Masses radio reported.

Israel-Egypt-Saudi Arabia

Missiles Controversy—Any Israeli attack against Saudi Arabia would be a "very serious matter" that would "torpedo the whole peace process," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak warned in remarks cited by MENA. Mubarak called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to "participate in the peace endeavors" rather than make "insinuations about war." The Palestinian uprising is a "warning bell," Mubarak said, adding that the "danger" lies in the consequences of any Israeli "failure to respond." Israel must be "alert" to the fact that the danger is increasing, he asserted.

The Egyptian president also sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan asking him to use his influence to convince Israel to "stop threatening Arab countries so irresponsibly," the agency reported.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director of the Israeli prime minister's office, denied to IDF radio that he voiced a threat against Saudi Arabia, and he said that there is still a "question" about whether the Chinese missiles in Saudi Arabia constitute a danger to Israel. The United States will be given time to deal with this issue through contacts with Saudi Arabia and the PRC, Ben-Aharon stated.

Violence—Two Palestinian youths were shot to death and a third was wounded when soldiers opened fired to quell a disturbance in the Balatah camp, Jerusalem radio announced. Three policemen were also wounded in the melee. Bullets fired into the air during a riot in Janin wounded a man standing on a balcony, the radio reported. In Ashqelon, tear gas grenades were hurled into a bus transporting Arab workers. The unidentified assailants shouted that Arabs will be hurt in Israel as long as Jews are being injured in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted.

In the village of Shuyukh near Hebron the next day an Egged bus driver was beaten and his vehicle burned. IDF radio reported 25 March that curfews were imposed on various localities in the territories and that three residents of Tarqumiyah were wounded by IDF gunfire.

ICO Conference

Iranian delegation leader Mohammad 'Ali Tashkiri accused "Arab reactionaries" of taking a "hostile position" against the Islamic Republic, IRNA reported. In a

message broadcast by Amman television, Tashkiri declared that resolutions "directly aimed" at Iran lead that country's representatives to withdraw from the ICO conference.

The message listed the objectionable resolutions as those which deal with the Gulf war, the sanctity of the holy places, and limiting the numbers of pilgrims allowed to visit those shrines. A Jordanian conference official cited by Amman radio noted that the resolutions were submitted by Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

In a speech carried by SPA, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had told the conference that because his country is carrying out "great projects" to improve hajj facilities, it will therefore be necessary to "limit the numbers of pilgrims from Islamic states" in order to give all Muslims "equal opportunities" to fulfill their religious responsibility. When the construction is completed, the Kingdom will be able to serve even larger numbers of pilgrims, the Saudi minister said, and he reaffirmed his country's determination to "keep the trust bestowed on it by God."

Libya

Consultations With Iran—Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi received the Iranian ambassador for talks on "important issues of mutual interest," IRNA reported.

Travel Ban Lifted—Egypt's name has been removed from a list of nations to which Libyan citizens are prohibited from traveling, according to an AL-MUSAWWAR report cited by MENA. The ban was instituted in 1975, the agency noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Perez de Cuellar Refuses Arab Request on PLO
PM231435 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
19 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Perez de Cuellar Refuses To Defend PLO Before U.S. Courts"]

[Text] New York (exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT)—During his meeting 2 days ago with Arab ambassadors to the international organization, UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar turned down their request for him to attend U.S. courts "as a partner in the defense" of the PLO against the U.S. decision to close the PLO office in New York. During the meeting, which lasted no more than 15 minutes, a dialogue took place whose full text AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained.

The talks began with a comment from Ambassador Ahmad Ghazal, the Tunisian representative and head of the Arab group for March. He said: The Arab group is seriously concerned about the host state's intention to close the PLO office, and the group considers that the conflict, in practical terms, is between the United Nations and the host state, that is, the United States, and not between the United States and the PLO.

He also said: Although the group appreciates the secretary general's previous and current efforts and his reply to the U.S. representative's letter, as well as the reports he has submitted to the General Assembly, it still hopes that he will take the necessary measures to ensure that the PLO's mission can continue its work within the United Nations.

The head of the group officially requested the secretary general to inform Arab ambassadors both specifically and clearly of the measures he intended to take.

Then it was the turn of Zuhdi al-Tarazi, the PLO representative, to speak. He expressed his concern about the U.S. court, which will be working with the justice minister (Attorney General Edwin Meese) toward reaching a decision on 21 March, to ask the U.S. police to take the necessary measures for the immediate closure of the office. Al-Tarazi urged the secretary general to "take the necessary measures to prevent this from happening."

Then Perez de Cuellar spoke. He said that he and his advisers were discussing all aspects of the issue and that they were constantly looking into and discussing it seriously. He said: We will do all we can to ensure that the PLO office continues to work normally within the United Nations.

Ambassador 'Ali al-Turayki, the Libyan representative, informed him of the group's request, namely to go with the PLO to the U.S. courts, if the PLO is officially summoned, as a partner in the defense.

Perez de Cuellar interrupted him and said, in a way Arab ambassadors described as "angry and violent": I represent the United Nations, which is an international organization, and I do not want to create a precedent by going to a local U.S. court. I prefer both the conflict and my efforts to resolve it to remain within an international atmosphere and framework.

He added: It is premature to inform you of the measure I intend to take. The time has not yet come, and I am still awaiting the General Assembly's resolution on the basis of which I will work.

In an attempt to ease the tension dominating the atmosphere during the meeting, Ambassador Samir al-Shihabi, the Saudi representative, intervened. He told the secretary general: We came as friends to support you, and we consider you our friend.

Perez de Cuellar replied immediately: And I consider myself your friend; I want to work with you closely on this issue.

Perez de Cuellar continued to speak to the Arab group, all of whose ambassadors were present. He said: I represent an international organization, and as its secretary general I wish to make my decisions independently.

The Arab meeting with the secretary general concluded at this point, but Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, the Kuwaiti representative, waited to hold another meeting with the secretary general on the same issue, in his capacity as head of the Islamic group. But Perez de Cuellar initiated his second meeting by asking to be excused; he said that he was suffering from a cold and that he was very busy. He also said that he did not want the meeting to be so turbulent.

The Kuwaiti ambassador emphasized to him that the objective was to guarantee that the PLO would remain in New York and that the Islamic group also urged him to go to the court in defense of the PLO.

The secretary general promised to take both requests into account during his consideration of the measures he intends to take immediately after the General Assembly adopts its resolution.

Chance for Improved Egyptian-Arab Relations
PM231423 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
17 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Arab Moves To Improve Egypt's Relations With Syria, Libya, and Algeria"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT office—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that the forthcoming weeks will see the air being cleared between Egypt and Libya, Syria, and Algeria, to pave the way for improving relations between them and resuming full diplomatic relations.

These sources have mentioned to AL-SHARQ AL-AW-SAT that there are efforts currently under way to mediate between Egypt and the three states.

They said that mediation efforts are veering toward the possibility of holding meetings between Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the foreign ministers of the three states, on the periphery of the Islamic states foreign ministers meetings scheduled for next week in Amman.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Conference Continues

Sa'ud al-Faysal Address

LD240020 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Amman, 23 Mar (SPA)—Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered a comprehensive speech before the 17th ICO foreign ministers conference currently being held in Amman. His highness reviewed the main important issues preoccupying the Islamic World.

Here is the text of the address of his highness: [passage omitted]

The agenda which we have managed to approve includes political, economic, social, and cultural issues which are important to the march of Islamic solidarity. We are totally confident that members of the conference, with God's grace, and thanks to their understanding and solidarity, will be able to find beneficial solutions in order to strengthen cooperation among Islamic countries and bolster world peace, particularly when we are being guided in our work by tolerant Islamic principles which are based on the foundation of right, justice, and goodness.

The Islamic nation met a year ago. At that meeting the Islamic states were brought together at the fifth Islamic summit which was held in Kuwait at the end of January 1987. Here is history. Fold away the page of a complete year and begin a new page in its book, which is full of great events.

What do we see today? I say this with the pain that we feel in all our hearts. We see that division still exists between some of us. We see conflict between some of us. This has been a barrier in our coming together. And even more than that, we see the enemy lurking around us, lying, waiting for us and hatching plots; engineering conspiracies; sowing sedition; creating all that he can to split our ranks and weaken our determination.

By God, we are not disgracefully idle or submissive out of weakness. If we lack anything it is only because we have moved away from the teachings of our tolerant faith and held arbitrary views instead of following what God has commanded us to do and doing what we must not do.

Injustice has flourished and the heavy hand of the one who administered injustice on us became heavier on some of our nations and their fates. The Afghan people are still continuing their jihad in seeking the way of God and the liberation of their homeland from the yoke of injustice and occupation.

Also, brothers, there is a fire that is raging in Lebanon and blood that is being spilled there endlessly. Dozens, indeed hundreds, have fallen daily as a result of explosions and destruction in a land that used to enjoy security, stability, and prosperity. Is there a gleam of hope that restores to a people their former state, safeguards their freedom, and protects the unity of their territory?

Another major issue is the issue of Palestine. We still hear the appeal of Jerusalem shaking the four corners of the world. We still see these Muslim and Arab people daily being made homeless, roaming from one country to another and becoming more scattered among the nations while they want nothing more than to recover their usurped rights and return to their usurped homeland and possess their self-determination. This has been expressed by these proud people in the heroic and tumultuous uprising which has embraced all the Palestinian lands which succumb under the tyrant Zionist occupation.

There is, O brothers, a fratricidal war continuing to rage between two Muslim peoples in two neighboring countries—Iraq and Iran. This war has been afflicted by disease while medicines have been scarce. All good efforts have broken against the rocks of this fierce war and all calls for peace have been lost amid the echoes of shelling.

O brothers, these are some of the sorrows and worries that we have had to mention and recall in today's meeting in order through our sufferings to renew the pledge we took before God's holy house at the holy Mecca summit and, by recalling it affirm what we issued at the Fes and Kuwait summits. Let us all in this meeting renew our call to the warring sides in countries dear to us to stop fighting, spare the blood of their sons, and save the capital of this nation in power, men, and equipment, in order to face the usurping enemy, who is lying, waiting.

God has ordered us to prepare for it all with power. This power is characterized, among other things, by self-restraint and a rational approach. Among the pillars of this power are close ranks, unity in word, and adherence to God's commandments. [passage omitted]

Dear Chairman:

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia feel numerous and great responsibilities toward our beliefs, Islamic law, our country, and our Islamic nation. Among these great responsibilities is assuming the service of the two holy mosques and looking after the comfort of the pilgrims of God's holy house. God almighty, who has bestowed on us the honor of serving the two holy mosques, has given us the determination and ability to assume this responsibility.

Year after year, step by step, and with one action after another, we endeavor to provide the best services to Islamic sanctities and prepare the most honorable conditions for pilgrims, those who come for the minor pilgrimage, and visitors.

When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia makes available its potential and resources, and mobilizes its apparatuses and men, and when it offers everything dear to it in order to service the two holy mosques and the pilgrimage, it does so with the incentives of faith in God, obedience to him, and getting close to him, because it knows the greatness of its responsibility and is aware of the honor of the mission and the greatness of the reward.

On the basis of the responsibilities and duties of the Saudi Arabian Government, which has been bestowed the honor of serving the two holy mosques and the guests of God's holy house from all Islamic peoples, it is eager to keep the trust bestowed on it by God, and this consists of looking after the Islamic sanctities of the two holy cities, holy Mecca and holy Medina.

The Government of Saudi Arabia has begun to develop services and define programs that are in harmony with the present circumstances and the increasing number of those coming to the Kingdom for their pilgrimage, minor pilgrimage, or to visit. In this it takes into account all the health, security, environmental, and living considerations that provide ease and safety for the pilgrims and guarantees that they can perform their rites in ease, comfort, and serenity.

King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has continuously discussed this matter with the heads of the pilgrimage missions who come to the Kingdom every year.

In the framework of these services and programs, great projects to extend the holy mosques have been implemented, accommodations for pilgrims have been developed and improved, some old buildings have been removed in order to build new ones, and necessary structures have begun to be constructed. Considering the fact that this will take some time, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has seen the need to limit the number of pilgrims from the Islamic states in order to give equal opportunities to all Muslims to perform this sacred duty.

After the completion and realization of all these projects, programs, and services, larger numbers of pilgrims will be able to be absorbed and all means of comfort, serenity, and safety will be available to them. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has presented a memorandum to this effect and hopes to inform you through it and hopes that all Islamic states will receive the care, interest, and response they deserve.

Mr Chairman:

The Zionist enemy continues its transgression and aggression against the Arab region. The international community has been unable to put an end to this aggression on Arab Palestine and our holy Jerusalem, and the enemy has gone beyond them in occupying other Arab areas, and bringing destruction to neighboring countries. In this the enemy has thus transgressed not only against the safety and security of the entire region but also threatens world peace and international security.

At a time when Israel is still carrying out its aggression, the Arab states shouldered their historic responsibilities and defined their ideas on the peace process in the historic resolution issued by the Arab summit in Fes in 1982. This resolution highlighted Arab unanimity on peace based on justice and international legitimacy and in accordance with the international will manifested in the UN resolutions. The resolutions of the Arab summit in Amman in November 1987 reaffirmed this stance and those tendencies.

It has become clear that Israel's intransigence and tireless attempts to obstruct peace efforts to gain time and to realize its objectives and ambitions will result only in more disturbances and complications which will increase the difficulty in resolving the issue, with all the dangers entailed therein. There is no greater evidence of this than Israel's deliberate attempts to place obstacles and difficulties in the way of efforts to convene an international peace conference.

The valiant and courageous popular uprising being witnessed by the occupied Palestinian territories against the tyrannical Israeli occupation shows first and foremost that the Palestinian people are determined to hold on to their legitimate national rights, and that Israel cannot continue to allege that order prevails in the occupied territories and that it is capable of dealing with the situation there isolated from all other considerations.

The terroristic Israeli practices and methods of tyranny and persecution against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and its continued violations of the sanctity of the holy places in Palestine violate the UN resolutions on the Palestinian question. They also contravene the most basic principles of human rights and international accords and conventions.

They can obstruct and delay the peace march in the Middle East, at a time when international efforts are being made at all levels to convene an international peace conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and with the attendance and participation of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman:

Perhaps what causes us the most pain and sorrow is that wound which is still hemorrhaging in the Islamic body and nephews' blood which is wasted in that hated war, a war in which noble blood is still wasted, valuable installations are still destroyed, and precious resources are still destroyed. This organization has called for and committedly persevered in ending this tragedy between the two Muslim neighbors, as have other countries and international organizations. [passage omitted]

Despite international efforts and the efforts of the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement, in addition to Arab efforts and the numerous appeals of the Arab summit to Iran to end this war through negotiations between the two sides after it was confirmed that it will bring nothing but ruin, destruction, and loss, and to restore the spirit of Islam which calls for peace, justice, love, coexistence, avoiding hostilities, and not to waste the blood of the Muslims, it pained us that the Iranian regime did not respond to these appeals to end this war according to the principles of justice and right, while Iraq agreed to all these peaceful initiative.

The continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the threat, which the Iranian regime tries to expand, are the main reason for the instability, grave tension, and critical situation in the Gulf region, and they have also led to the presence of international fleets in the waters of the Gulf.

The GCC countries have stressed that security and protecting international navigation is an international responsibility which should be shouldered by the international community as a whole, and that freedom of navigation is an international principle. Keeping the passages in the Gulf open for international navigation are principles approved by international law and maritime law and any measures which secure their implementation would be within the framework of international law.

Obstructing international navigation, whether in international waters or water passage, is an illegitimate action and blatant piracy and all countries have the right to confront it, whether individually or collectively.

Mr Chairman:

The Iranian regime has not restricted itself to the war against fraternal Iraq, a war which has destroyed everything, spread disturbances and anxiety in the region, and

exposed it to the dangers of foreign intervention and of involving it in international conflicts. It has also continuously tried to transform its conflict to parties which are not involved in its war against Iraq by giving itself the right to attack the interests of countries which are not party to the conflict, by threatening the security of other countries, and by obstructing international navigation in the Gulf.

We have repeatedly stressed in Saudi Arabia that we do not pursue hostilities with Iran, and that we, as an Islamic Arab country, have every respect and love for the fraternal Muslim Iranian people. We sincerely pray to God for help and guidance in order to strengthen Islam by his role, so that he will always be a source of power and cohesion for the great Islamic nation.

Mr Chairman:

There is an Islamic, Arab, and international consensus that the Afghanistan question must be resolved through a rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghan territory, and the guaranteed preservation of Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, its political independence, and its nonalignment.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position on the Afghan question is in accord and harmony with this trend. While committed to the ICO's resolutions in this respect, it has supported, and it continues to support UN efforts to find a solution to this problem that would realize these principles. These efforts and endeavors have begun to bear fruit, with the Soviet Union declaring its intention to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Serious negotiations are currently taking place within the United Nations, which, we sincerely hope, will lead to the signing of a comprehensive agreement for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, and entrench security and stability in this country which has been suffering for a long time, and going through danger and sacrifices. We also hope that the relations between the two neighborly states, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan—in the event of the signing of an agreement—become relations of goodneighborliness and mutual respect.

We also hope that the desired solution to the Afghan question will be secured in accordance with the affirmations of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, when he said: "The Soviet Union wants Afghanistan to remain an independent, sovereign, and nonaligned state as it used to be. The Afghan people have the right to choose their own way with the development program they want."

On the other hand, we hope that such a solution would lead to the Afghan refugees' return to their homes after Pakistan has thankfully borne with them during all these years.

Now that the Afghan brothers have come very close to attaining the aspirations of the Afghan people, we cannot but pray to God to accord them success, guide their steps, and bring them the prosperity and progress they look forward to.

The Saudi Arabian Government has already expressed its support for the agreement concluded among the Afghan mujahidin to form a provisional government that would lead the fraternal people of Afghanistan in the next stage, and has voiced its appreciation for the holy war of the Afghan people. They continue to wage a holy war sincerely to liberate their country, and to affirm its Islamic creed and identity, so as to return to the side of their brothers.

Mr Chairman:

The questions of minorities in the Islamic world are important and vital. When we review the affairs of our Islamic nation we should not forget to refer to the affairs of minorities in other states. Muslims in some of those states do not enjoy the political and religious rights guaranteed by international and local laws and regulations, although Islam dictates that every Muslim should be a good citizen, zealous with regard to his homeland's interests, and eager for his homeland's progress and prosperity.

Within this framework the fifth Islamic summit, held in Kuwait, demanded that the subject of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria should remain on the agenda of our conference until this issue receives a satisfactory solution. We express our support for the results and recommendations contained in the report submitted to this conference by the three-man committee which the secretary general set up and which visited Bulgaria in June of last year, and we support the protocol Turkey and Bulgaria signed on 23 February 1988.

We hope that the conference will look into the position of Muslims there in light of the attempts aimed at violating their fundamental rights, on the one hand, and at liquidating the Islamic character of Muslim citizens in Bulgaria, on the other, and in the manner that will guarantee their enjoyment of total freedom there in practicing their religious rites and their equal rights on the basis of their citizenship and under the auspices of the state and the law.

Mr Chairman:

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia harbor no evil toward anyone. We are not hostile toward anyone and we do not initiate anything which is detestable to anyone. We hate injustice, reject wrong, and refuse anything dictated by the whims of others. We do not like to see blood being spilled for the sake of God.

Proceeding from this, I did not like to refer in my speech to the sedition committed by Iranian pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca during last year's pilgrimage, particularly because the leaders of the delegations who spoke before me referred to those incidents. I would not have referred to those incidents had it not been for the fact that we today heard the leader of the Iranian delegation making allegations which he himself and you yourselves brothers, know are unfounded.

I am certain that these misrepresentations will not succeed in erasing the traces of the abominable crime committed by the Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca during a holy month and at the holy house of God—a very holy spot which represents a glorious symbol of Islam and a focus of all hearts. That crime did not take place in secret or out of sight. It took place in full view and within hearing distance of millions of Muslims.

We are not going to give details of those regrettable and painful events, here. No doubt, brothers, you have learned the full details. I also do not wish to talk about what preceded and what followed that crime in the way of behavior and defiance of the feelings of Muslims. Following those events, telegrams and statements of denunciation and condemnation poured in to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Muslim leaders and ulemas. They all denounced that behavior and declared their absolute support for the measures which were taken by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to tackle the situation. They demanded that all means must be taken to stop a repetition of those acts.

Here in front of me is a long list of the names of those states, bodies, organizations, and Islamic centers which condemned those acts. If I did not feel that I would be burdening you with their details I would read them out before you. The list truly represents an Islamic unanimity which is beyond any doubt. [passage omitted]

Despite all the attempts and efforts we have made and the efforts which have been made by a number of brothers to reach an understanding with the Iranian Government to prevent anything that might disturb the peace of the pilgrimage or contradict the teachings and concepts of Islam; despite all this, we have begun to hear lately with great regret repeated statements by the Tehran rulers, full of threats, that they are going to stage demonstrations in accordance with their aims regardless of all the warnings.

These words appear in their statements daily disregarding or paying no attention to the resolutions of the Islamic summits and all that has been issued by all the governments, conferences, and meetings held by Muslims this year in various Islamic countries and at all Islamic levels. This shows the determination of the Tehran rulers to hamper the performance of the pilgrimage rites and create problems and fan sedition among Muslims.

Because of all this, brothers, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia declares that anyone who comes for their pilgrimage to the house of God is pleasing God in a state of total submission and in order to ask for forgiveness and add more to his good deeds. If they come to the pilgrimage this year and adhere to the rules of conduct of the pilgrimage and follow its teachings and commit no obscenities, wickedness, and wrangling, they will be welcome. All the machinery which is geared to the pilgrimage will not sleep until they arrive and can perform their rites with ease. They will find every care and attention from all, along with all other pilgrims to the holy house of God.

But if they come as they are today, declaring their statements, for purposes and aims and whims, which have no connection with religion, let them know full well that the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the help and power of God, has taken precautions for every contingency.

It will not, God willing, enable any individual or group of people to carry out acts which contradict the sacred nature of the pilgrimage or disturb its clear atmosphere, including their determination to stage demonstrations or reiterate calls or display slogans, make speeches, distribute books, carry pictures, or desecrate graves and other acts which violate the rites of pilgrimage and offend the feelings of Muslims.

The Arab summit conference which was held in Amman recently affirmed its complete solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its full support for the measures taken to provide a suitable atmosphere to enable the pilgrims to the holy house of God to perform their rites of pilgrimage in safety and humility. They fully support any measure that prevents disturbances in the holy places affecting the security and safety of pilgrims and the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Your conference, brothers, is called upon to support this stand and to stand against wrong behavior which contradicts the teachings of the tolerant Islamic faith. [passage omitted]

In the domain of financial and administrative reform, a close look at the operative budget shows clearly an inflation of administrative and financial spending at the expense of productive costs. This explains the quality of the current result of the organization's activities and those of other organizations and centers.

Perhaps it is relevant for me to say here that the administrative and staffing structure of the organization and of other organizations and centers does not necessarily require the existence of a permanent apparatus of experts in various sectors. Therefore, there is room for rationalizing expenditures. This would make it possible

to introduce reforms which would provide better possibilities for spending on productive activities that would raise the ability of the organization and Islamic organizations and centers to offer better services for our member states.

It transpires from the report of the committee of experts charged with studying the administrative and financial system of the organization that the latter has been able to score great progress in assuming its mission. This is showed by the administrative system of the organization, submitted to us today. If we can adopt it in our conference it would be a positive step in the right direction.

We would have liked, at the same time, to see the proposed project of the financial system, to examine and adopt it, but the committee of experts has not been able to conclude its study. Perhaps your conference wishes to see the committee of experts resume its work to finish this task as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman:

In this respect, we repeat our urging of member countries of the organization to fully assume their responsibilities regarding the administrative and financial problems facing the general secretariat, establishments, and centers of the organization, and to pay in full their decided quotas so that the organization may advance in realizing the aims that we all want and look forward to.

Mr Chairman:

Our responsibility in this meeting makes us duty bound to make it an occasion to deeply examine what we have achieved and what we should do, and an opportunity to reexamine our work and review the resolutions we adopted in our previous conferences so as to turn them into a tangible reality that will support and bolster our good march toward security and stability for our states, and prosperity and progress for our peoples. [passage omitted]

YAR Minister's Speech

JN240306 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Today Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Attar, deputy prime minister, planning minister, head of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member, delivered a speech for the two parts of the Yemeni homeland at the 17th ICO foreign ministers conference which is currently being held in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

In his speech, he spoke on the revolt being staged by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist occupation and said: These people have been resisting the occupation continuously for 4 months. They are armed with the word and the stones.

They are bound to see their will triumph and to achieve all of their objectives regarding attaining their rights to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

In the speech that he delivered on behalf of the two parts of the homeland, Dr al-'Attar stressed the need to see the Muslims adopt unified stands so that their strength and resolve to confront the usurping enemy increases. He also reiterated the firm stand of the two parts of the homeland toward the Palestine question and their constant support for the struggle being waged by the Palestinian people to attain their rights to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state on their soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

He also affirmed the support of the two parts of the homeland for convening an international peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the UN Security Council member states and all the parties concerned, including the PLO, which must attend such a conference on an equal footing with other parties.

Al-'Attar also referred to the Iraq-Iran war and to the dissipation of energies and both human and financial resources brought about by this war. He called for an immediate end to this war and also for negotiations to resolve outstanding problems through peaceful means. He also paid tribute to Iraq's positive stand which is represented by its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for ending the war and also to Iraq's acceptance of all mediation efforts which have sought to bring about a reconciliation between the two states. Dr al-'Attar also appealed to the Iranian Government to pursue a similar course to end this bloodshed.

In his speech, he also referred to the Afghan conflict and to the reason behind the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan without preconditions and called on the Muslims Afghan people to tackle their differences through peaceful means.

He also noted the partial detente achieved in the armament policy and the agreements concluded in this respect and called for a total halt to the arms race.

Dr al-'Attar clarified the stand of the two parts of the homeland—the stand which is represented by supporting the South African people and the Namibian people as well as for their right to self-determination. He condemned the racist Pretoria regime and its racist policy of oppression.

Concluding his speech on behalf of the two parts of the homeland, Dr al-'Attar touched on the problems that concern the Islamic nation and called for overcoming the

difficulties so that the dangers facing the Islamic nation can be confronted. He said that this is necessary if the Islamic nation is to carry out the mission dictated by the true Islamic religion.

The 17th ICO foreign ministers conference which is currently being held in the Jordanian capital resumed its work this evening by holding a session to hear the speeches of the remaining delegations attending the conference. During this session, the conference will complete its discussion on the draft resolutions submitted by the working committees so that they can be approved.

Pakistan's Haq on Afghan Issue

*JN240855 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24-25 Mar 88 pp 1, 5*

[By P.V. Vivekanand, "special" to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Pakistan rejected suggestions Tuesday that it was delaying signing of an agreement at the U.N.-sponsored Geneva talks on ending the nine-year-old Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan is not putting any new conditions on the table," said Mahbubul Haq, Pakistan's minister of commerce, at a press conference in Amman. "The Soviet Union should put no conditions before withdrawal. They (Soviet troops) entered the country without invitation. They should need no signature, no international permission before withdrawal," he said.

He said Islamabad was insisting on its demand that the Soviet Union halt all assistance to Kabul in return for Western undertakings to call off support for the Afghan rebel movement, which is fighting a guerrilla war against successive Soviet-backed governments in Kabul.

Haq said Soviet insistence on continuing its aid to the Kabul government after American military supplies to the rebels ended meant disarming one side in the conflict.

He called for a simultaneous stoppage of arms supplies to both sides and commitments by outside powers not to send more weapons to Afghanistan after a settlement.

"If we enter an agreement with Afghanistan in Geneva it means setting up the mujahidin (Afghan rebels) for slaughter," he asserted. "It means Pakistani recognition of a regime whose legitimacy has been challenged by the entire world community..."

According to Haq, who is leading his country's delegation to the conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Amman, Pakistan's acceptance of the Soviet offer in Geneva will herald "a bloody civil war" in Afghanistan.

Haq said: "We are spending \$1 million a day for their national existence—\$350 to \$400 million a year out of our own resources and Pakistan is a poor country. We are at the same time faced with the situation where those Afghan refugees are cut down, most of their land frozen (sic)—livestock is disappearing. This could be a real physical burden for Pakistan, on opposition parties and everybody in the country."

"It should be guaranteed that a settlement should be negotiated to return refugees to their homeland. It should be guaranteed by the U.N. and the international community to stop the bloodshed we had for eight years," he said.

"I realise there is an anxiety on the part of the mujahidin that towards the end when the world sits together at the negotiating table, their legitimate aspirations, their struggle, will be compromised or bargained away in the framework of global strategy" he said.

"We are not prepared at this late stage after holding up this issue to bargain away or compromise on the rights and aspirations of the mujahidin and the Afghan people," he said.

In reply to a question on the mujahidin's call on Moscow for direct talks, Haq said: "The response (from Moscow) should be to the mujahidin, not Pakistan. We have great admiration for the role they played. They are the real heroes of Afghanistan. They have their aspirations... the best of their aspirations is the real will of the people to give whatever role they offer to the mujahidin."

"It is not up to us or anybody else to accept or reject any proposals," he said. "It is ultimately up to Afghan people to give mujahidin the role for future settlements."

On Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) recognition of the transitional government set up by the mujahidin, Haq said: "Our stand is clear. The organisation should recognize the government chosen by Afghan people, according to Geneva (conventions) and return of refugees to their homeland. These five million refugees have to choose their own government. A representative government could emerge only after the return of refugees and whole population of Afghanistan... then it could choose its government which the OIC believes in."

Haq also denied an indirect Iraqi allegation that it was helping the organized emigration of Iranian Jews to Israel via Pakistani territory.

"There is no such question that Pakistan will ever condone an arrangement whereby there will be a Jewish repatriation to Israel," Haq said.

"We are on record opposing... any such move which upsets the balance of population there and upsets the rights of the Palestinian people," he said.

Haq said his country, which borders Iran, should not be "maligned" on the issue.

'Abd al-Majid News Conference

JN241257 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Mar 88 p 19

[Text] Amman—'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has paid tribute to the popular uprising in the occupied territory, saying it is a great event which like the October war has changed the status quo. It has demonstrated that the 20-year-old occupation cannot continue, just as the October war has changed the equations that had previously existed and shattered the myth of the invincible Israeli soldier.

'Abd al-Majid, who was speaking at a press conference at the Plaza Hotel yesterday, called for making use of the uprising which must be followed by a political move, now that it has asserted itself and demonstrated the vitality and ability of the Palestinian people.

Referring to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict the Egyptian foreign minister said:

The Egyptian stand on this conflict is known and principled. Egypt calls for the implementation of Resolution No 598 in the same sequence as those of the resolution. Only the Security Council can change the order of the articles.

He added: Egypt considers the security of the Gulf and Arab national security—including Egypt's security—indivisible. Any undermining of Gulf security affects Arab national security. Yesterday, Egypt declared its stand on the recent Israeli threat to Saudi Arabia. An Egyptian official source declared that Egypt will stand by Saudi Arabia against any aggression.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that in today's session of the ICO foreign ministers conference he will reply to the attack on Egypt by the leader of the Iranian delegation to the conference.

When asked his view of Mr George Shultz' upcoming tour of Middle East countries, 'Abd al-Majid said: The tour will complement the U.S. moves that began a short while ago. We must be patient in dealing with these kinds of negotiations because they take a long time.

The Egyptian foreign minister said there is no problem between his country and the Libyan people, but the differences are with the Libyan leaders. He said Egypt expressed its good intentions by returning the four Libya planes that landed in Egyptian territory.

'Abd al-Majid said Egypt harbors friendship and amity toward Syria, and believes that Syria has a major role to play in the Middle East issue. He said it is Syria's right to

differ with Egypt over Camp David, and added that the issue has become a matter of the past whereas Egypt always looks toward the future.

Referring to Mr Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's accusation in the Egypt's Revolution case, 'Abd al-Majid said:

Egypt is a democratic country with a free press, freedom of speech, an active parliamentary opposition, and a constitution that governs and defines powers. Egypt's Revolution case is being investigated by the public prosecutor and will be referred to the judiciary regardless of the personalities involved. The courts will have their say freely. No power in Egypt can influence the course of the case. The integrity of the judiciary in Egypt is known and we are proud of it. If Mr Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir has committed a crime that violates the law then he is not above the law.

'Abd al-Majid added: Egypt is making efforts to bring about a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue because it is the Palestinians' right to express their view.

'Abd al-Majid welcomed the Soviet statement on their withdrawal from Afghanistan and called for a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

'Abd al-Majid Speech 24 Mar
NC241551 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 24 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the Iranian delegate's attack on Egypt during the ICO foreign ministers meetings as a "dissonant sound," reflecting Iran's isolation in the conference.

In a speech to the conference today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Islamic nation rejects Iran's sick mentality. He added that Egypt achieved a triumphant and viable peace after the 1973 victory.

He indicated that peace is a fundamental thing and its establishment is legitimate and even a duty. Stopping wars and establishing peace are prerogatives of a Muslim ruler, who has to decide on such matters in accordance with his country's interests. He stressed that Egypt recovered its territory without relinquishing its obligations toward the Palestinian people, whose cause remains its main preoccupation.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that peaceful confrontation is an expression of the realities of this age. Its success requires courage and sincere work, which are lacking in those who are pursuing illusions and who are throwing their people into war to serve their own ambitions.

He stressed that Egypt will continue to support Iraq's efforts for peace and its defense of its territory until aggression and tyranny are defeated.

Addressing the Iranian rulers, 'Abd al-Majid said: Whether you like it or not, Egypt has regained its place in the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds. Thanks to its standing and size, Egypt acts as a shield and bastion of Islam.

He added that the Iranian delegate's attack on Egypt is incompatible with the status of this distinguished gathering. He noted that those who are against Egypt's return to the ICO are those who want the Muslims to remain weak and divided.

He said that Egypt does not need lessons from Iran's rulers who have brought destruction and ruin to their country, and who are ruling with iron fists and fire. Their regime only knows execution, imprisonment, repression, dispersion and banishment for those who do not support it.

At the end of his speech, 'Abd al-Majid stressed Egypt's support for Saudi Arabia in the face of recent Israeli threats. He said that any attack on Saudi Arabia will be considered an attack on Egypt.

The Iraqi delegate then spoke, indicating that Iran's withdrawal from the conference was due to its feeling of isolation and to the fact that it did not find a ready reception for its lies.

He said that Iran depends on twisted methods in its dealing with other states. He referred to the immigration of Iranian Jews to Israel and to Iran's acquisition of U.S. and Israeli weapons.

'Aziz Views Resolution on War
JN240859 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Mar 88 pp 1, 21

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi foreign minister and leader of the Iraqi delegation to the ICO foreign ministers conference, has said he does not expect the conference to come out with practical and implementable resolutions on the Iraq-Iran war.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Tariq 'Aziz said the conference's adoption of a resolution that clearly calls on Iran to accept peace and that emphasizes regional and international calls in that regard will contribute toward the peace process.

Tariq 'Aziz said the Iraq-Iran war is one of the important topics on the conference's agenda. He added that a draft resolution has been submitted by a number of ICO member states and is being discussed by the conference's political committee.

The Iraqi foreign minister expressed the hope that the conference will vote for the draft resolution which "according to my information will endorse the international and Muslim call for ending the war and which will call on Iran to respond to the will of the international community."

Referring to the emigration of Iranian Jews to Israel, Tariq 'Aziz said: The matter is still being discussed by the conference, and nothing has been adopted on the issue thus far.

Iraq Responds to Iran's Charges

JN241951 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The chief Iraqi delegate responded to the speech by Iran's chief delegate refuting the claims and allegations made by the Iranian representative.

He said the charges and false allegations made by him against Iraq and the ICO were typical of the usual Iranian attempts to provide cover for a new aggression or to divert attention from the defeat of the aggressive forces of the Iranian regime.

He said Iraq's relations with other countries are based on mutual respect in contrast with the Iranian regime as shown by the Irangate scandal and Israeli weapons to Tehran and the emigration of Iranian Jews to Palestine. The chief Iraqi delegate refuted Iranian claims of Iraqi attacks against Khurmala and Halabjah while forgetting its shelling of the two cities which triggered anew the war of the cities.

The chief Iraqi delegate called on Islamic nations and all faithful Muslims to scrutinize the true principles underpinning the Tehran regime and its non-Islamic, non-Koranic interpretations.

Iranian 'Memo' of Withdrawal

JN242015 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The Iranian delegation has withdrawn from the meetings of the 17th ICO foreign ministers' conference currently in session in Amman, having attended the proceedings of the past 3 days.

The chief Iranian delegate last night sent the following memo to the ICO's secretary general:

Your Excellency the ICO Secretary General:

May God's peace and blessings be upon you. We would first like to extend our thanks to you and the Jordanian authorities for the warm hospitality accorded us.

It is most regrettable that the political committee passed some resolutions directly aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran. These are: the resolution on the Iran-Iraq dispute; the resolution restricting the number of pilgrims; and the resolution on the sanctity of the holy places.

Furthermore, our delegation felt that heavy pressures were being applied by certain countries to steer the conference toward their special interests. Hence our delegation serves notice that it is completely withdrawing from the 17th ICO foreign ministers conference. And the end is best for the righteous. [Koranic verse]

Iranian Delegation Departs

LD241323 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1107 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 24 Mar (KUNA)—The head and members of Iran's delegation to the ICO foreign ministers' conference left here today for their country in the wake of their withdrawal from the morning session. They left in protest against a draft resolution prepared by the political committee and the drafting committee on the Iraq-Iran war and Iran's failure to accept the peace calls for its end, and another draft resolution condemning the events in Mecca during the previous pilgrimage season.

The Iranian delegation was headed by Mohammad 'Ali Tashkiri, chief of the External Affairs Department at the Iranian Ministry of Information.

Al-Nimr on Iran's Departure

JN241658 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Amman—Nabih al-Nimr, Foreign Ministry secretary general and chairman of the political committee, has said that the members of the political committee cast a unanimous vote in favor of three draft resolutions—on the Iraq-Iran war, the sanctity of holy places, and the number of pilgrims to be allowed to visit the house of god every year—submitted by Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

In a press conference he held today, he added that unanimity achieved regarding these draft resolutions caused the failure of the draft submitted by Iran. These issues made Iran feel isolated. It withdrew its draft resolutions, and consequently it withdrew its delegation from the works of the conference.

He stated that the Iranian delegation left Jordanian territory with full sendoff ceremonies similar to the reception ceremonies accorded to it and other participating delegations, because the Iranian delegation is a guest in Jordan. Therefore, it was accorded the same treatment as the rest of the delegations participating in the conference. [passage omitted]

Al-Nimr pointed out that the Jordanian draft resolution on the sanctity of holy places and pilgrimage rituals was inspired by the regrettable incidents which took place in last year's pilgrimage season. He added that this draft resolution calls for showing solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and reiterates its right to adopt all the measures which ensure safety and security for pilgrims.

He went on to say that all the conferees are unanimous on supporting the popular uprising being staged by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories using all possible means. He referred to the Islamic consensus on the PLO's participation in the international peace conference.

MENA on Iran's Withdrawal

NC250600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Amman, 24 Mar (MENA)—A MENA correspondent has learned that the draft bill submitted by the Iranian delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers conference, which was rejected by the conference political committee, called for condemning Iraq and accusing it of starting the war against Iran.

The draft bill, the rejection of which led to the withdrawal of the Iranian delegation from the conference, called for the ICO Secretariat to form an international Islamic legal body and an international tribunal to determine the necessary sanctions against Iraq, according to the Iranian accusation.

The rejected Iranian bill, comprised of four articles, stated that safeguarding "Persian" Gulf security concerns only the Gulf littoral countries and that intervention by any foreign force is to be rejected under all circumstances.

The bill also appealed to all countries, particularly the superpowers, to refrain from supplying massive amounts of arms that may lead to an escalation or prolongation of the war.

The delegations participating in the conference criticized the Iranian bill because its articles were not objective. They described it as an attempt to create confusion in the conference that thwarted the good intentions of the Islamic nations to halt this war, which is detrimental to both Muslim peoples. [passage omitted]

Egypt Venue of 1990 Meeting

JN251007 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 25 Mar (INA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said the 18th session of the ICO foreign ministers conference will be held in Saudi Arabia in 1989, and the 19th session will be held in Egypt in 1990.

In a press statement Al-Masri said agreement on the date of the next two sessions of the ICO foreign ministers conference was reached during the closed meeting held today by the leaders of the delegations participating in the 17th ICO foreign ministers conference.

Closing Session Begins 25 Mar

JN251115 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Amman—The Islamic states foreign ministers began their closing session at the Royal Cultural Center this morning under Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister and chairman of the conference.

The resolutions of the administrative, financial, economic, cultural, and social committees have been approved. The session is still in progress to hear the political committee's report.

Algeria

Bendjedid Meets With Klibi, FRG's Genscher

Palestinian Issue Discussed

LD231646 Hamburg DPA in German 1449 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Algiers (DPA)—The Arab League expects political and humanitarian support from the European states for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi stated this today at a meeting with Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Algiers. Genscher promised further German humanitarian aid. [passage omitted]

During his 1-day lightning visit to Algiers, Genscher was also received by President Chadli Bendjedid. The federal foreign minister, his Algerian opposite number, and Secretary General Klibi agreed in their analysis of the situation in the occupied territories, that there is a completely new quality in the uprising, expressing despair at the failure of all peace efforts. Both sides stressed the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. Genscher explained that, since its Venice declaration of 1980, the EEC has committed itself to the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and also supports an international peace conference on the Middle East.

As was heard from delegation sources, Arab League Secretary General Klibi paid tribute to the humanitarian aid given so far by the EEC states to the Palestinians and pressed for further measures to improve living conditions, which have been limited by numerous measures of the Israeli occupation forces. Foreign Minister Ibrahimi made it clear at the meeting that in Arab opinion the Arab-Israeli conflict could only be solved on the basis of international law. All peace efforts must end in an international conference with the participation of all parties in the conflict, including the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Genscher stressed, as at other times, that the status quo in the occupied territories must be overcome.

Genscher Comments on Talks

LD241418 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0630 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The Palestinian uprising and the question of holding an international Middle East peace conference were the subject of yesterday's political consultations held in Algiers between Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab seven-man committee, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the FRG foreign minister and current chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi took part in the talks.

The German minister talked about these consultations before leaving Houari Boumedienne International Airport. He said:

[Begin recording in German, fading into Arabic translation] We exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, particularly in the occupied territories. We share concern over the events which have been taking place in the occupied areas for 4 months. We have common convictions that this uprising (?by its very nature and background) stems from a state of despair, hopelessness, and disappointment of the inhabitants, as a result of the failure of the numerous peace attempts.

I believe that the solution to the problem should take place through realizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and naturally, through taking into consideration the right of all the states of the area to exist, including Israel. We deemed it necessary to speed up the convening of the international peace conference because this tends to open the way to negotiations.

I had the opportunity to listen today to the (?evaluations) of President Bendjedid. There was a far-reaching identity of views between the two of us. I also would like to thank the Arab League secretary general for the meeting with him today. We met recently in Bonn, where we exchanged views. We have a great desire to maintain the exchange of views, even if this takes place quickly and suddenly, if necessary. This is in addition to exchanging views via diplomatic channels. Such direct consultations are of great importance. [end recording]

Burkina Faso's Compaore Arrives for Visit

LD211726 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Captain Blaise Compaore, president of Burkina Faso, is in Algeria for a 3-day official visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid. The visit will contribute to the evaluation of an increase in Algerian-Burkinabe cooperation and a review of all important current African and international issues.

The Burkinabe president arrived this morning. Captain Blaise Compaore is accompanied, in particular, by Captain Henri Zongo, minister of economic promotions, and by the secretary general of the Revolutionary Committees. The first private talk between the Algerian and Burkinabe presidents is expected to take place early this afternoon, and a second early this evening. During this bulletin, we will try to contact our correspondent, Kader Brahimi, who will send us the statement made to the press by the Burkinabe president.

Presidents Resume Talks

LD220912 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The Algerian-Burkinabe political talks were resumed yesterday evening at Djenan al-Mithaq residence with a tete-a-tete meeting between President

Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, and Captain Blaise Compaore, president of the Popular Front and head of the Burkinabe state and government. The Algerian-Burkinabe political talks began yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid and Captain Blaise Compaore. [passage omitted]

Attending Officials Listed

*LD221528 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 22 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] The private political talks held this morning at the presidency between President Chadli Bendjedid and Captain Blaise Compaore, president of the Popular Front and head of state and government of Burkina Faso, have been extended to the members of the two delegations. On the Algerian side the following officials participated: Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat; Larbi Belkheir, cabinet director; Aboubakr Belkaid, minister of higher education; Mohamed Amokrane Cherifi, minister of commerce; and Mohamed Aberkane, deputy minister at the Foreign Ministry in charge of cooperation.

The Burkinabe side was represented by Captain Arsene Ye, secretary general of the Revolutionary Committees; Jean Marc Palm, minister of external relations; Clement Ouedraogo, minister of higher education; Frederic Korsaga, minister of commerce and people's supply; and by the Burkinabe charge d'affaires in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Agreements Signed

*AB221453 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 22 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] Concerning head of state Captain Blaise Compaore's official visit to Algiers, let us recall that the chairman of the Popular Front and President Chadli Bendjedid met twice yesterday. Our reporter, Patrice Desongo, has the details:

[Begin recording] Apart from the political talks that the two heads of state held yesterday afternoon, President Blaise Compaore and Chadli Bendjedid met again at the dinner that the Algerian leader hosted in honor of his guest in the evening. [passage omitted]

Today's program, which is very busy, began this morning with the visit to three monuments considered the symbols of Algeria's history. They are the Jihad Museum, the Army Museum, and the Arts Center. [passage omitted]

Later, the Popular Front's chairman and his entourage went to the presidency of Algeria, where they were welcomed by President Chadli Bendjedid. Another round of private talks, which was later attended by the delegations of the two countries, was held between both leaders on bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural sectors.

It was decided during these talks that the Algeria-Burkina Faso joint commission will meet on 7 through 9 April 1988 in Ouagadougou, to discuss the increase and consolidation of bilateral cooperation. The main objective will be seeking means to combat desert encroachment and achieve economic development.

Moreover, it is worth noting the agreement concerning the supply of agricultural equipment to aid in the development of the Sourou valley, and Algeria's 1.5 billion CFA francs contribution toward the financing of the project. A line of credit of \$200,000 was also obtained for the bottling of gas in Burkina Faso. The NAFTAL company, a gas producing company in Algeria, is interested in energy distribution in Burkina Faso, mainly gas.

In the cultural sector, technical assistance will be provided to our country in the field of higher education. As for the hydrological sector, a mission will soon visit Ouagadougou. Concerning the commercial sector, Algeria is interested in buying our cotton while Burkina Faso is interested in buying Algerian fabric and thread. Also, capital goods will be supplied by Algeria. In the commercial field, both sides agreed to increase cooperation between the two countries' chambers of commerce. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Departure Reported

*LD231351 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] Captain Blaise Compaore, president of the Popular Front and head of the Burkinabe state and government, and his accompanying delegation left Algiers today after a 3-day official visit to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Minister Visits for Locust Talks

*LD231143 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT
23 Mar 88*

[Text] Algiers, 23 Mar (APS)—The Moroccan interior and information minister Driss Basri, arrived Tuesday here. This visit falls in the frame of a bilateral consultation in order to join and reinforce actions of the struggle against the acridian invasion which caused serious prejudices to vegetables resources in all the countries of the area.

Driss Basri, visited together with his Algerian counterpart, El Hadi Khdiri, the operational command for the struggle against the acridian invasion which was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

He was also informed on activities of the anti-acridian struggle waged in Algeria, methods adopted and means mobilized.

During their talks, the two ministers agreed on the necessity for all Maghreb countries and neighbouring countries to consult one another. In order to act jointly and fight the causes of this natural calamity and accelerate the eradication of the plague.

FLN's Bouhara Receives Hungarian Official
*LD221105 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT
22 Mar 88*

[Text] Algiers, 22 Mar (APS)—Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the FLN Party CC Permanent Secretariat in charge of the sector of external relations, audience Monday here Jozsef Gyorko, deputy chief of the sector of external relations in the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

On this occasion, the two sides examined prospects of the development of relations of friendship between the two countries and the two parties.

The two sides also [words indistinct] views on certain international questions mainly those related to the Maghreb, the Middle East, security and peace.

Chad

Opposition Group Rejects New GUNT Accord
*AB241959 Paris AFP in French 1925 GMT
24 Mar 88*

[Text] Ouagadougou, 24 Mar (AFP)—The Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR, a movement opposed to the Ndjamen government), today rejected the agreement signed on Sunday [20 March] in Tripoli which intended to reconstitute a new Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT) under the chairmanship of Mr Goukouni Oueddei, according to a communique released in Ouagadougou. The document, which was delivered to AFP and signed by Mr Youssef Maina, the CDR's secretary for information, described the Tripoli agreement as a "fantasy."

According to the Libyan news agency, JANA, five Chadian opposition movements including the CDR had on Sunday announced in Tripoli that they were regrouping together under the leadership of Mr Goukouni Oueddei.

The communique cited the dismissal of Mr Goukouni Oueddei by the factions that were signatory to the Lagos and Cotonou accords and his replacement by Mr Acheikh ibn Oumar as leader of the GUNT. The communique said the CDR reaffirms its commitment to the Cotonou II and Ouagadougou Accords.

Sudanese Ba'th Party Delegation Holds Talks
*AB241407 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 23 Mar 88*

[Text] We of the Ba'th Party are against the Libyan military presence in Sudan. Our party denounces the support given by the Sudanese Government to Libyan troops in their aggression against Chad, and their use of our territory. This statement was made by (Muhammad Qaykun), leader of the Sudanese Socialist Ba'th Party delegation which has been visiting our country since 19 March.

The four-member delegation has held a series of talks with UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] officials at various levels. Yesterday afternoon, a working session took place at UNIR headquarters that grouped the officials in charge of training. Let us listen to the statement made to our reporter Mohammed Ahmat Adamou by the leader of the delegation, (Muhammad Qaykun), on the discussions he has held and on the purpose of their visit to Chad:

[Begin recording in Arabic fading into French translation] We have come here to consolidate the historical relations between the Chadian and Sudanese peoples. We have come to consolidate the sound relations already existing between the Ba'th Party and the UNIR. In the future [words indistinct] its territorial integrity, the struggle for development and the consolidation of national unity and democracy. We have held talks with various UNIR officials on a variety of topics concerning our (?parties).

We of the Ba'th party are opposed to Libyan military interference in Chad. The Libyan military in Sudan is against our unity and our sovereignty. We shall make the Sudanese people aware of the need to (?fight) against the Libyan military presence in our country. This presence is not in Sudan's interest; it can only bring misunderstanding among our people. It is not in Sudan's interest for a foreign army to use its territory as a launching pad to attack Chad, because this can jeopardize relations between the two countries.

The Ba'th party rejects the support given by the Sudanese Government to the Libyan aggression troops. We will ask the Chadian Government to quickly change its policy in the face of the Libyan interference in Chad via Sudanese territory. This interference is harmful to Sudan and to our relations with Chad. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak on Saudi Missiles, Israeli Response
*NC241222 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT
24 Mar 88*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has expressed his surprise at the recent Israeli threats against Saudi Arabia, and at the statement issued by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office on Saudi Arabia's possession of certain missiles.

In remarks to journalists today, Mubarak asked: Will Shamir act as custodian of all states? Does he want no state to buy weapons without prior permission from him? What kind of custodianship does Shamir want to impose and what right does he have to do this? Does he want to intervene in the affairs of other sovereign states?

Mubarak went on to ask: Why does Shamir consider that any weapon possessed by any state is directed against Israel? Every country has its enemies—why does he not put it this way?

Mubarak added: We are searching for peace, and we are not seeking war. Instead of hinting at war, Shamir would do better to participate in the peace endeavors.

President Mubarak stressed that peace deserves every sacrifice by all sides, because in peace there is love, development, and improvements in the living standards of citizens. He also emphasized that to hint at war is the wrong approach. This attitude brings destruction, hatred, a reduction in living standards, and the squandering of people's resources; it is also against humanity and mankind, he declared.

If Shamir is saying that Saudi Arabia has missiles, we can also talk about Israel's nuclear program. He is hinting at war at a time when he has been presented with a peace initiative. I thought he would extend his hand for peace.

President Mubarak asked: Do the people of Israel accept this?

President Mubarak asked: Why does Shamir harbor ill will against any state possessing weapons? The whole world has weapons. I repeat here that Israel has a nuclear program, and I know everything about its nuclear program.

President Mubarak warned against any attack on Saudi Arabia, which is a fraternal and friendly state. He said that this would be a very serious matter. If any attack takes place against Saudi Arabia, this will torpedo the whole peace process, he said.

President Mubarak continued: I call on Shamir to refrain from making insinuations about war; this is rejected. I believe that the peace-loving forces in Israel do not accept this.

He added: We want everyone, including Israel, to live in peace, provided that this is a just peace.

On the political currents in Israel which are opposed to the ruling Likud bloc, and on future possibilities of peace, the president said: Not all of Israel is against peace. There are now voices loudly raised in Israel in support of peace. We must back the peace-loving forces.

If the Likud bloc believes that war will keep the situation in the region as it is, then I say and stress that the situation in the West Bank and Gaza will not remain as it is.

The president added: I have already said that the uprising is only a warning bell. The uprising itself is not the danger. The danger lies in what would result from a failure to respond to the demands for human rights of this people. These people have remained under colonization and are being treated as 10th class citizens.

President Mubarak said: The situation cannot remain as it is. Danger lies ahead and it is getting closer. We must be alert and Israel must be alert to this if it wants to live in peace.

Answering a question on the U.S. stand on this subject, President Mubarak said: I believe you have heard the statement issued by the U.S. State Department and the White House, to the effect that the United States is against this threat. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has its friendship with the United States. It is strange that Israel should threaten Saudi Arabia. The president added that this threat is rejected and difficult to understand.

Answering another question on whether he wished to address an appeal to peace-loving peoples, President Mubarak declared: In a previous statement in Bonn, I said that warmongering and the consequences of war in terms of sacrifice are more ferocious than the sacrifices for peace. The sacrifices of war increase hatred, destruction, and economic collapse, and harm peoples, individuals, and mankind. This is not the correct approach.

President Mubarak stated: Peace deserves every sacrifice because it is the natural human way of life. It ensures a dignified existence, raises standards of living, creates cooperation among states and nations, and provides an atmosphere of amity among all peoples. War creates resentment and hatred.

Message Sent to Reagan

NC241740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that he has addressed an urgent message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan in connection with recent Israeli threats against Saudi Arabia.

In the message, Mubarak urges Reagan to use his influence with Israel to convince it to stop threatening Arab countries so irresponsibly.

Mubarak added that he has addressed a verbal message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir through Egypt's Ambassador to Tel Aviv Muhammad Basyuni, and that a number of senior Israeli officials have been contacted in that regard.

'Abd al-Majid on Gulf War, Other Issues
NC240956 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 23 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt calls for the implementation of UN Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war in the specified sequence. The resolution provides for a ceasefire, withdrawal, and then the formation of a committee to investigate the responsibility for the eruption of the war.

At a news conference in Amman this evening, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Iran, before halting the war, is calling for the formation of a committee to determine which party is responsible for starting the war. He said that Iran is trying to impose its view on the entire international community, which supported Resolution 598.

He noted that efforts are being made to start peace negotiations between the two parties but said: I believe this will be difficult to accomplish.

At his news conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid saluted the Palestinian uprising. He said that Egypt regards this uprising as a momentous event in the history of the Palestinian issue and that it is as important as the October 1973 war. He said that the uprising has frustrated the idea that the Palestinian people should accept a continuation of the 20-year occupation. This proves the vitality of the Palestinian people, he said.

He noted that coordination between Jordan's King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak, as well as with other parties, is under way in an effort to resolve the Palestinian issue. He said that contacts between Egypt and the PLO are continuing.

The foreign minister welcomed U.S. efforts. He said that contacts with the Americans are continuing, but this does not mean that we should accept everything they present. He said that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz may come to the region in early April to start on a new tour. He pointed out that the uprising has imposed itself and has changed the nature of the status quo.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that Egypt is concerned with the security of the Gulf. He said that Arab security is indivisible and that there is coordination with the brothers in the Gulf.

He pointed out that Egypt is considering its stand regarding the recent Israeli threat to Saudi Arabia, and that it will announce its response to these threats in the near future.

Regarding the "Egypt's Revolution" Organization, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that all are equal as far as Egyptian justice is concerned. Egypt has a democratic system and the Egyptian judiciary is above debate, he said, adding that if Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir is innocent, the judiciary will acquit him.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt has not approached Yugoslavia to hand over Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir. He noted that it is up to Khalid himself to appear before the judiciary.

At his news conference, the foreign minister said that President Husni Mubarak has mediated between Ethiopia and Sudan, pointing to the meeting of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Djibouti to discuss the issue of south Sudan.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized Egypt's concern for the security and stability of Sudan. He said that President Husni Mubarak is making great efforts to ensure this security and stability. He said that Egypt is concerned with the unity of Sudan and expressed Egypt's hope that these disputes will end soon.

He also expressed hope that cooperation between Mengistu and Al-Mahdi will mark the beginning of other meetings to resolve the problem existing between the two countries.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt has no problems with Libya, that Egypt has the deepest respect for the Libyan people, and that its only dispute is with the Libyan leadership, which wants to impose its views on Egypt.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also asserted that Egypt welcomes Sudanese mediation between Egypt and Libya. He said: We hope that a true reconciliation will materialize, especially because Egypt has had bitter experiences with Libya. Nevertheless, Egypt has a big and open heart, he said.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the return of the Libyan planes which had landed in Egypt is proof of Egypt's good intentions, especially as these planes were worth more than \$100 million.

He pointed out that if Egypt wanted to create a situation, it would have kept these planes.

He pointed out that when President Husni Mubarak learned of these planes, his first reaction was: "The pilots are among their kinfolk."

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said at his news conference that the Palestinians have the right to a dialogue with the U.S. side, and that it is the duty of the United States to listen to the Palestinian view, because the Palestinians are a basic party in the issue.

The foreign minister welcomed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's declaration of the Soviet Union's desire to withdraw from Afghanistan. He said that Egypt supports reaching an understanding with the Afghan mujahidin so that Afghanistan may achieve stability.

Regarding relations between Egypt and Syria, the foreign minister emphasized that Egypt has no problems with Syria, that it has every affection for Syria, and that Syria has a principal role in any peaceful settlement.

He said that there are differences of view between the two countries on the Camp David initiative, but that these subjects are now behind us. He said that Syria has the right to regain its territory in the Golan Heights.

Regarding the return of the Arab League headquarters to Egypt, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that this subject is not an issue of dispute among us. He expressed hope that the Arab League will be able to address the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Responding to a question on the Shultz initiative, the foreign minister said that some hold the view that this initiative is designed to abort the Palestinian uprising, but the fact is that if we are easy to manipulate, then we should blame only ourselves. The Shultz initiative is a political attempt, and the response to it could be either rejection or acceptance.

Opposition Condemns Emergency Law Extension
PM241621 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
22 Mar 88 pp 2, 4

[Ahmad al-Kinani report: "At a Mass Political Rally Against Emergency Law, Shukri Says: No to Mubarak If He Continues To Rule by Emergency Laws"]

[Excerpts] In an atmosphere of terror resulting from the heavy presence of the Central Security Forces, which encircled streets and added a new dimension to the terrorism imposed on the country, along with the continued enforcement of the emergency law, the biggest and most important political rally was held at the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] headquarters in Al-Hada'iq.

The rally was held to expose and confront the suspect attempts to extend the emergency law. It was attended by opposition and SLP leader Ibrahim Shukri, SLP Secretary General Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad, and representatives of the Al-Wafd Party, the Arab Socialist Nasirite Party, the NPUG, the Liberal Party, the Al-Ummah Party, and many popular organizations, as well as a large number of compatriots who flooded to the rally site despite the tight security cordon, shouting slogans condemning these suspect attempts. [passage omitted]

Addressing the conference, Dr Hilmi Murad said: The emergency law serves no purpose other than to humiliate the people and hold a sword over their heads, so that they will not seek their rights. Its only justification is that

the current regime has failed to solve the people's problems and failed to tackle the various public issues raised, and therefore the regime's continuation is linked to the continuation of the emergency law. Continuation of the emergency law is not in President Mubarak's interest; it means that the rulers are afraid of the people and therefore try to impose their control.

Al-Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi then spoke. He urged a unified stand against the government to prevent it from extending the emergency law, which is in the interest of neither the public nor the government. That law, he said, has enough articles to annul the legal guarantees to which the people are entitled. [passage omitted]

Al-Wafd Party Higher Committee member, lawyer 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad, said on behalf of his party:

If those ruling us had any degree of maturity, they would have listened to the voice of the people, who are demanding an end to the emergency law. It is very regrettable, however, that our rulers have learned nothing from history. They have only learned, from dear Kissinger, how to rule us with a step-by-step and piece-by-piece policy. They have learned to rule us with stick and fire and to enforce the emergency law every year. This has been the case since the stand incident [Al-Sadat's assassination].

The emergency law is a fire burning us every day. The government has become incurably addicted to it. It is addicted to ruling with the whip, with prisons and dungeons, and with the stick, to silence every voice raised in defense of rights in this land. [passage omitted]

NPUG representative Wajih 'Abbas was the fourth speaker. He appealed to party leaders to suspend their dialogue with the ruling party.

He added: The emergency law was introduced to be used against workers, peasants, and students. We have heard nothing about its being used against thieves, robbers, and smugglers. It is therefore a shame for us as a nation to accept this humiliation. We warn against any attempt to play on that law by promulgating the terrorism law now being drafted by the government. [passage omitted]

Liberal Party Leader Mustafa Kamil Murad spoke next. He appealed to President Mubarak to abolish the state of emergency. He added: Extending it would serve neither the government nor the regime. There is no need for the emergency law because it erases all the guarantees given to the public under ordinary law, which is adequate to deal with all crimes and those who constitute a threat to security.

Mustafa Kamil Murad continued: Matters are going from bad to worse, and if the government extends the emergency law then we will mobilize public opinion everywhere. Let President Mubarak know that all the people reject and are against the emergency law.

Ibrahim Shukri was the last speaker. [passage omitted] He said: In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. This meeting will be a turning point. We will never allow them to tamper with us or to sow seeds of division. We will stand united so that our country will not be under anyone's tutelage.

Shukri added: We will say no to the emergency law and we say no to Mubarak, because when we gave him our confidence it was not a carte blanche. It was conditional on such things as the abolition of the state of emergency and the implementation of the Islamic shari'a.

We tell Mubarak: Reexamine everything you are told, if you want to keep our confidence. The stability you are told about can only be achieved with the people.

I tell those hiding behind the emergency law: You have often challenged us. We speak out for God and country. If you do not listen then you will be swept away by the current when the masses come out from the mosques, factories, and fields, and march on. Those men (referring to the policemen) will never aim their guns at their own people who, they know, are good people; but their patience will not last forever. Beware the patient people.

Shukri added: The people will wrest their freedom one day, and it will not be a freedom given by [Prime Minister] 'Atif Sidqi or [Interior Minister] Zaki Badr. The people will not tolerate this humiliation forever. [passage omitted]

Shukri also said: We will organize ourselves. Let no one think that differences of ideology or approach will prevent us from joining hands in the interest of the people's freedom and of resisting this humiliation at the hands of the United States and Israel.

We tell President Mubarak: Instead of going to Sharm al-Shaykh, go first to the poor areas in Egypt, where there is no drinking water and where people live in tents. We tell him: Know that much about your country first, before declaring that you want the people to lead a respectable life. We will spare no effort for the people, and our work will be sincere and for God.

Further on Jordanian Speaker's Visit to Cairo

Meets With Al-Mahjub

NC231351 Cairo MENA in English 1330 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 23 (MENA)—'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies [as received], expressed today his country's appreciations over the pioneering role of Egypt in support of the Arab causes, stressing weight of president Husni Mubarak in the Arab nation.

This came following Al-Fayiz meeting today with Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly.

Both Al-Fayiz and Al-Mahjub praised efforts of both King Husayn and President Mubarak in support of the Arab causes.

They reviewed developments of the Arab and international situation in the light of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands.

They also discussed means of coordinating stances between the Egyptian and the Jordanian parliaments particularly in the world parliamentary forums for obtaining support of the world public opinion.

Talks With Sidqi

NC231600 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of Jordan's House of Representatives, in his office this afternoon. Sidqi said afterwards that they had reviewed the efforts being made by Jordan's King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak to serve the Arab and Islamic causes, primarily the Palestinian issue and the situations in the Gulf and Afghanistan.

He said that Al-Fayiz had noted the need for Egypt's return to the Arab Parliamentary Union. This matter, he added, will be brought up at the first meeting of the union's next session in Abu Dhabi. Sidqi stated that they had also reviewed the excellent relations between Egypt and Jordan in view of the approaching date of the eighth session of the joint higher Egyptian-Jordanian committee, to be held in Amman in June.

'Source' Says No Military Units Sent to UAE

NC231345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—A responsible source today reasserted Egypt's firm policy of not sending forces outside Egypt and that no units have been sent to the UAE.

The source denied a report published in today's issue of AL-AHALI, mouthpiece of the opposition grouping party, that said that an agreement concluded between Egypt and the UAE provides for units of military specialists to be sent to the UAE.

Argentine Delegation Arrives for Visit

NC231044 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—An Argentine political and trade delegation led by Dr Eduardo Angelos, Cordoba state governor, and Mr Sasaksi [name as received], governor of Rio de Janeiro, arrived in Cairo this morning.

Dr Angelos stated that he is bringing a handwritten message to President Husni Mubarak from Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. He said that the purpose of the visit to Egypt by this delegation, which comprises 135 Argentine businessmen, is to bolster bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field; increase the volume of trade; sign trade agreements; and study an agreement in the field of maritime transport. [passage omitted]

During the 4-day visit, the members of the delegation will meet with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications and maritime transport.

Mubarak Given Message

NC241208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. Eduardo Angelos, the Argentine president's envoy, gave the message to President Mubarak at a meeting today. Also present were Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and the Argentine ambassador in Cairo.

The Argentine president's envoy and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit that will last several days.

Al-Baz Confers With Bruneian Foreign Minister

NC231321 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Official talks began at noon today between His Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei minister of foreign affairs, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The talks dealt with bilateral ties.

During the 1-hour meeting, the officials reviewed bilateral relations and strengthening them in various fields. The Brunei minister arrived in Cairo earlier today for a visit of several days.

Trade Union Delegation Leaves for Moscow

NC222014 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT
22 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Muhammad Kamil Labib, chairman of the Land Transport Workers General Trade Union and assistant secretary general of the General Trade Unions Federation, left Cairo for Moscow today, leading a delegation on a 3-week visit to the Soviet Union and the FRG. The delegation's visit to the USSR is at the invitation of the Soviet Transport Federation Workers Central Council.

While in Moscow, they will hold talks on the means of bolstering bilateral relations and coordination and cooperation in areas of common concern. The visit to the FRG is aimed at acquainting the delegation members with the work methods of the transport workers trade union there.

Briefs

Radio, TV Agreement

The director general of Spanish radio and television, Pilar Milo, and the president of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union, Husayn Anan, signed a cooperation protocol between the two organizations in Cairo today. The agreement involves the free exchange for 2 years of news and musical programs for radio, the training of specialized teams, and other cultural, social, and scientific matters. [Excerpt] [LD230310 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Mar 88]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables ICO Conference in Amman

LD241327 Tripoli JANA in English 1441 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has sent a telegram to the conference of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference which is currently held in Amman.

It reads:

The Muslim world, while following up your conference, is hopeful that it passes resolutions that express its free will.

Such will comes from our tolerant Islamic creed calling for freedom and jihad against the enemies of Islam and usurpers of its lands.

The Zionist enemy is an entity that has usurped holy Islamic lands. No Muslim state should have relation with this entity at any level even at the level of an interest section. There should be no interests between us and this entity. This also applies to the U.S., the main prop and financier to the Zionist entity. The decision taken by the U.S. Administration to close the PLO office is but an evidence.

The continuation of the Gulf war runs the rails of Islam. This war has degraded the morals of Muslims to the lowest levels before the world thereby making people leave Islam in which the Iranians and Iraqis believe.

Endeavours should be made to transfer forthwith the U.N. office from the U.S. to a neutral place where this organization can play its role freely.

It is an Islamic obligation to announce the holy jihad against the Israelis and the U.S.—the enemies of Islam and freedom, apart from starting off the holy Islamic march towards Palestine from all over the Muslim world to liberate it.

Finally, we demand that you in the name of Islam and freedom make these question get implemented at this conference.

Signed

Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Iranian Envoy Discuss 'Issues'
LD250941 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, March 25, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Tripoli Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari discussed important issues of mutual interest with the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi in a private meeting here Thursday.

Hoj. Khonsari also inspected a project on a man-made river in Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi Inaugurates River Project Roof
LD241851 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] At noon today, amid the popular celebrations of the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of people's authority and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history, the brother leader of the revolution inaugurated an important stage in construction of the great man-made river project—the installation of a roof over the river's great reservoir. [passage omitted]

The width of the great man-made river's reservoir is 920 meters; its height, 9.8 meters; and its capacity, 4 million cubic meters. On arrival, the water flows through two outlets. The first takes around 1.8 million cubic meters of water to Benghazi. The second carries about 820,000 cubic meters of water to Surt. The amount of concrete used for construction of the reservoir was 570,000 cubic meters. The materials used to fill the reservoir were dust, sand, and sediment.

Al-Qadhdhafi Honored on Visit To Ajdabiya
LD241534 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Ajdabiya, Mirrikh [March] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The whole inhabitants of the town of Ajdabiya have taken to the streets to receive the leader of the revolution yesterday.

They chanted for him stressing their adherence to the principles of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and their preparedness to defend its achievements.

They have reiterated their belief in people's power as the people now possess wealth, weapons and authority.

Speeches were delivered stressing the above and expressing full support to the historic deed done by the leader of the revolution in breaking down the prison and releasing the prisoners therein.

The above masses have signed a document stressing their allegiance to the leader of the revolution emphasizing their adherence to people's power and their being on the standby to defend the achievements of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Addressing the leader of the revolution as a sole leader for the procession of progress and construction and the pioneer of the struggles of peoples towards emancipation and freedom, the above masses pledge that they stand as a bulwark against those who cherish the idea of being able to return anew to rob the people of its power and wreck its civilized achievements.

The document pays tribute to the historic steps taken by the leader of the revolution pledging to be loyal soldiers in the holy march undertaken by the leader of the revolution to liberate the world at large.

Meanwhile, these masses have made the leader of the revolution a present of a tent.

PFLP Secretary General Habash Begins Visit
LD241403 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0845 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Mar (JANA)—Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr Habash said in a statement on his arrival that the purpose of his visit is to consider the current situation in the Palestinian arena and to consider ways of assisting the popular uprising in occupied Palestine. The statement was made to JANA at Tripoli International Airport.

Received by Jallud

LD241920 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1835 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Mar (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud this evening received Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, and the accompanying delegation.

Agreements With Soviet, Burkinabe Students
LD241459 Tripoli Jana in Arabic 1150 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 March (JANA)—An agreement covering joint cooperation between the General Congress of Students in the Great Jamahiriya and the USSR Council of Students was signed by the brother secretary of the General Congress of the Students of the Great Jamahiriya and the chairman of the USSR Council of Students.

The provisions of the agreement include an affirmation to support the revolution of stones that is being waged by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine, to support the liberation movements in the world, to stand up to international imperialism and Zionist plots, and to unify and coordinate viewpoints and actions in international forums between the General Congress of Students in Great Jamahiriya and the USSR Council of Students.

The agreement also includes an exchange of visits between student delegations, organizing joint friendship weeks and youth camps, sports, and cultural activities.

An agreement was signed covering joint cooperation between the General Congress of Students in the Great Jamahiriya and the National Bureau of Students in Burkina Jamahiriya.

The agreement was signed by the brother secretaries of the General Congress of Students in the Great Jamahiriya and the National Bureau of Students in Burkina Jamahiriya.

The agreement includes unification of views and attitudes in continental and international forums, and the exchange of information material and bulletins that are published in the two countries.

The agreement includes an exchange of student visits and organizing joint sport and cultural activities between the students in the Great Jamahiriya and in Burkina Jamahiriya.

Citizens No Longer Banned From Going to Egypt
PM241101 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
23 Mar 88 p 1

[Talhat Jibril report: "Libyan Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Permission to Travel to Egypt Without Restrictions"]

[Text] Rabat (AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT office)—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Libyan authorities have decided to permit Libyan citizens to travel to Egypt without restrictions, deeming Egypt one of the states Libyans are not forbidden to travel to.

Official Libyan sources have informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, in rounding off decisions taken recently to enable the Libyan citizen to enjoy his liberty in full, Libya has decided to allow its citizens to travel to Egypt without restrictions.

These sources said that the Libyan authorities have also decided to delete Egypt's name from among the states stipulated in Libyan passports as the states Libyans are forbidden to travel to.

Libyan passports have stipulated that Libyans are prevented from traveling to Israel, South Africa, or Egypt.

The Libyan sources reported that this decision complements the recent decisions taken with regard to the release of political prisoners, the demolition of the prisons, and the abrogation of the list of people forbidden to travel. This indicates that these decisions are aimed at enabling the Libyan citizen to enjoy his liberty in full.

Furthermore, these sources pointed out that, the recent decisions enable the Libyan opposition abroad to return home to their country and to freely express their views, with the proviso that it is done by means of people's conferences, and that they pledge not to bear arms with the aim of destroying the government.

Mauritania

President Receives Arab League-PLO Group
AB221017 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
0730 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, yesterday received the joint Arab League-PLO delegation which arrived in Nouakchott last Sunday [20 March]. At the end of the meeting, which was also attended by (Ba Ildira), permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the leader of the delegation, who is the deputy secretary general of the Arab League, indicated that he and his delegation were happy to be received by the head of state.

Mahdi Mustafa al-Hadi added that, as has always been the case, the head of state showed much understanding for [words indistinct] and support for the uprising in the occupied territories for the Palestinian cause. We briefed the head of state on efforts made by the Arab League's secretary general both at the international and [word indistinct] levels, and the coordination of the PLO and the Arab League actions, which have resulted in a unified Arab position that could give support to the uprising of the Palestinians until they recover their land plundered by the Zionists, and to the creation of a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

The deputy secretary general of the Arab League congratulated the head of state for his tireless efforts aimed at raising the image of Mauritania and of the Arabs and Africans, whom we consider to be at the center of our struggle for freedom and progress in the whole world.

Press Agency Agreement Signed With Algeria
AB241020 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
0730 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] A cooperation agreement renewable every 3 years was signed yesterday in Algiers between the MAURITANIA PRESS AGENCY, AMP, and the ALGERIA PRESS SERVICE, APS. The agreement covers the exchange of information and experience in the technical and editorial sectors. It also provides for the exchange of journalists, technicians and documenters.

Morocco

FRG's Bangemann Rejects EC Membership Request
LD241428 Hamburg DPA in German 1157 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Rabat (DPA)—Federal Economics Minister Martin Bangemann traveled to Marrakech today at the end of his 2-day briefing trip to Morocco, where he was received by King Hassan II. Earlier, he met Premier Azzedine Laraki and the Moroccan energy, finance, economics, and fishery ministers. They discussed questions related to bilateral relations and Morocco's relations to the EC.

At a press conference in Rabat, Bangemann again rejected Morocco's request to join the EC, but stressed that Brussels is prepared to maintain special relations with the Maghreb countries. [passage omitted]

Filali Views Western Sahara, Algeria, 'Uprising'
JN230956 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Mar 88 p 19

[By Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali has affirmed that his government supports the holding of a referendum on the future of the Moroccan desert [Western Sahara], as suggested by the United Nations, and that his country will support its outcome no matter what the result is.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Filali said: The result of the referendum, whether total independence of the Moroccan desert or confederation with Morocco, will be supported by the Moroccan Government.

Filali welcomed the Algerian-Moroccan Government dialogue, and described his meeting with the Algerian foreign minister in Algeria as very important. He said the meeting had achieved results in the interest of both countries.

The meeting between the Algerian and Moroccan foreign ministers, which took place last October, resulted in the formation of a political committee to study border issues, a subcommittee meeting to draw up an agenda for the major committee, and the five-member major committee to discuss the future of the Arab Maghreb.

On the outcome of the previous meeting, he said: Until now, no practical results have come out of this visit.

He described the Algerian-Moroccan conflict over the Moroccan desert as a "diplomatic" one rather than a "military" one. He said: No matter how many differences there are between Algeria and Morocco, this does not justify the severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries. After all, these are two Arab and Islamic countries connected by a number of humanitarian issues.

Regarding the nature of the relations between the two countries, he simply said: There are no relations between the two countries.

Regarding the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said that this uprising is due to the difficult conditions faced by the Palestinian people.

Regarding U.S. President Reagan's latest initiative, which was brought to the region in the middle of last month by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, he said that his country leaves the response to the confrontation countries concerned and to the PLO, which he considers a basic party to the peace process.

Filali said that the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East is the "only" means available under the present circumstances, to achieve a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question. He affirmed the need for the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the parties concerned, including the PLO.

On the nature of Soviet participation in the international conference, he affirmed the need for the Soviet Union to be a partner in the peace process. After all, the international conference must be effective, and the states must not act only as an umbrella.

He described the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Amman as an ordinary conference with "extraordinary" characteristics, due to the nature of the main subjects under discussion—the uprising, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Afghan question. He said that he hopes the conference will have a historic characteristic and will achieve positive results.

Sudan

Further on Committee Meeting With Ethiopia

Ways To Develop Ties Discussed

*JN231401 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT
24 Mar 88*

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 23 (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Ethiopian joint ministerial committee held its first meeting Tuesday in Djibouti in the sidelines of "IGADD" [Inter-Governmental Authority for Combating Drought and Desertification] summit conference.

A press release published here Wednesday said the two sides had discussed all issues concerning the ways of developing and boosting the relations between the two countries.

The release pointed out that the meeting has agreed on the points which would be discussed in the second meeting scheduled to convene in Addis Ababa to improve the relations between the two countries. The release said the two sides have expressed their desire to develop the relations between them.

The meeting was held under chairmanship of minister of foreign affairs in the two countries.

Talks 'Positive, Constructive'

*JN241344 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT
24 Mar 88*

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 24, (SUNA)—An official sources at the Foreign Ministry has described the Djibouti talks between Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam as "positive and constructive".

Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Samhuni who is a member of the Sudanese Ethiopian joint committee, told the daily AL-AYYAM newspaper that negotiations of the joint committee were "friendly and successful" the matter that confirms seriousness of both countries to end their problems.

The committee will meet in Addis Ababa in the last week of next April to discuss the security issues and means of solving the current problems between the two sides, maintaining sovereignty of each country and non-interfering in each country's domestic affairs in addition to ways of boosting cooperation between the two states in the economic, cultural and commercial fields.

Military Spokesman Denies BBC 'Massacre' Report

*JN241050 Khartoum SUNA in English 1032 GMT
24 Mar 88*

[Text] Khartoum, March 24, (SUNA)—The Armed Forces spokesman has denied reports broadcast by the BBC from its correspondent in Cairo who visited Sudan recently in which he mentioned that many civilians were killed last August and September in Waw, the capital of Bahr al-Ghazal Region.

The spokesman said that the news disseminated by the BBC is "having nothing to do with the truth" and affirmed that Waw was not subjected to any conflict in which the Armed Forces took part.

He expressed regret that the BBC correspondent had quoted non-official sources and ordinary people who came from Waw.

The BBC said that a massacre took place in Waw and about 800 civilians were killed during the last eight months.

Minister of Defense Views Security in South

*JN231022 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic
20 Mar 88 pp 21-22*

[Interview with Major General Fadlallah Burma Nasir, minister of state for defense, by Ahmad Shahin; at the Defense Ministry—date not given]

[Text] [Shahin] To begin with, would you reassure us about the security situation in southern Sudan?

[Nasir] The situation in general is reassuring. However, this does not mean that there are no targeted areas. There are also the rebel movement's activities in the south. In any case, the Armed Forces have full control of the situation in this area despite the existence of some activity, which we do not deny.

[Shahin] Is this despite the occupation and then the liberation of Kurmuk and Qaysan, and later the occupation of Kapoeta?

[Nasir] Kurmuk and Qaysan were liberated purely by the Sudanese. They are under the full control of the Armed Forces. Kapoeta will also be liberated like Kurmuk and Qaysan, God willing.

We also have problems in the western part of the country, in Darfur. This area suffers from acts of plundering. However, these are decreasing and the Armed Forces are in full control of the situation.

[Shahin] An Armed Forces statement said that search operations are taking place in the western border areas. Does this mean there are still foreign forces in that area?

[Nasir] I stress to you that there are absolutely no foreign forces in western Sudan.

[Shahin] Then, what is the cause of the deterioration in security in that area?

[Nasir] The security deterioration is due to the Chadian-Libyan war. Undoubtedly, such wars have an effect on the neighboring states. As a result of the internal conflicts in Chad, we expect to have border penetrations now and then. However, the state's instructions to the Armed Forces are to confront such penetrations if they occur.

[Shahin] In your opinion, what are the obstacles that impede a solution to the south?

[Nasir] Foreign interference.

[Shahin] Nothing else?

[Nasir] This is the major obstacle. The problem of the south is complicated. In this regard, we can say that the problem is no longer one of internal security, but has fallen within the framework of regional and international conflicts.

If we examine the problem, we realize that some neighboring states contribute to it. Some international organizations also contribute to this problem in the name of religion or racism. Therefore, the issue is no longer a local or domestic one. It is basically a problem of foreign interference.

[Shahin] Some time ago, I attended a seminar of Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's in which he stressed the impossibility of a military solution to the southern problem. Do you believe that such a statement would push Garang to adopt an intransigent stand and cause him to think that the other side is unable to settle the battle in its favor?

[Nasir] The prime minister did not mean this. He means that peace is a strategic objective that Sudan seeks to achieve by every means. We are fully aware that wars cannot settle problems. On the contrary, wars raise problems and reactivate them. Weapons can create problems. Eventually, sitting at the negotiating table is the best solution to these problems.

However, what we are doing has two factors: The first is a strategic one. We consider peace a strategic objective that we seek to achieve. What are we fighting for? We fight to protect the Sudanese citizen from foreign aggressions and to defend our territory. This is a legitimate right that we exercise within a legal framework and within the limits of Sudanese sovereignty. We are defending our country. Moreover, within the framework of our responsibilities, we must achieve security and stability for our citizens.

The second aspect, the military factor, undoubtedly plays a major role in these wars. We believe that it is a major and basic factor to achieve peace. Some sides might believe that this factor has nothing to do with peace. However, we believe that it is linked to it.

[Shahin] Certainly, Garang has acquired experience in the guerrilla war throughout the past years. In light of his knowledge of the geopolitical and topographical importance of the south, is it possible that this has strengthened his confrontation of the Sudanese Army and enabled him to prolong the rebellion in southern Sudan?

[Nasir] Garang has undoubtedly acquired experience in this regard. However, I believe that the major factor is Sudan's large area. Sudan, as you know, has a large area, one million square miles. It also has more than 6,000 km of borders. These long borders allow guerrillas to infiltrate and move about because the regular forces, regardless of their size, cannot cover such long distances and large areas.

If we take a superpower such as the United States, we will find that its international borders do not exceed 2,000 km. Although it has huge resources, even the United States is unable to control the penetration of its borders or to stop the smuggling of drugs and heroin. So, what would you expect concerning a Third World state whose borders are 6,000 km long?

I agree that Garang has benefited from this large area, and that he knows the nature of guerrilla war. However, while you may be able to penetrate and infiltrate, you cannot capture a strategic position and stay there.

[Shahin] What are the sources of Garang's finance and arms? What is the ideology of his men and supporters? Is it true that some northerners are supporting him and have joined his movement?

[Nasir] Yes, there are those who are cooperating with Garang ideologically. However, such cooperation has many risks. I say to them it is better that they revise their calculations, because the problem is primarily the problem of a homeland not of ideologies. We must all think about the homeland; ideologies come after that. Indeed, such ideologies are not fit for ruling Sudan.

[Shahin] What ideologies?

[Nasir] Imported ideologies, whatever they may be.

[Shahin] That means there is more than one ideology within Garang's movement?

[Nasir] Yes, even within Garang's movement itself there are conflicting ideologies. There are patriotic people who believe in solving the issue, but there are also people who believe in certain ideologies.

[Shahin] What is it, then, that brings them together despite their conflicting ideologies?

[Nasir] What brings them together is foreign interference. If they were to leave us Sudanese alone, we would have been able to sit down together and negotiate. However, foreign interference and foreign interests are preventing negotiations.

As for Garang being financed, that is undoubtedly known. At a time when even some states cannot arm themselves, a movement of that size [cannot survive] under difficult economic conditions and sustained military expenditure, let alone maintain such a large number of men. As long as there is a hosting country, a country that supplies arms and a country that trains the men, then it is that country, those behind it, and those who follow it who are providing the financial resources.

[Shahin] What is the number of Garang's supporters?

[Nasir] Not less than 20,000.

[Shahin] According to recent reports, Garang is seeking to hold further contacts and to coordinate with neighboring quarters in various areas on the Sudanese border. This is an attempt to open new fronts so as to scatter the efforts of and exhaust the regular Sudanese Armed Forces. How true is this? And, are you prepared to face such a development if it should occur?

[Nasir] We judge this on the basis of the facts of the situation, and there are signs that it is happening. Undoubtedly, this will add further burdens on the Sudanese Armed Forces.

However, the question is: Is what is happening in southern Sudan aimed at Sudan alone, or is it part of a big plot aimed at a nation and a larger world that goes beyond Sudan?

If that is the aim, Sudan must not be left alone. What is happening in southern Sudan is not aimed solely against Sudan, but is an indivisible part of a design against an entire nation, and an indivisible part of the conflicts raging in the area.

Let us take our Arab area as an example. It is full of hotbeds of tension. Is what is happening in southern Sudan, the Gulf, Lebanon, Palestine, and western Sudan coincidental or planned? They are planned, and are aimed against all the people of the area. We are fully convinced that what is happening in Sudan is completely linked to all what is happening in the area.

[Shahin] Therefore, the problem does not concern Sudan alone, and consequently requires a confrontation bigger than Sudan's?

[Nasir] I want all those who live in the region to view the issue from a wider perspective, and to know its objectives and the strategy that moves it. Then, if the others become convinced that the matter does not concern Sudan alone, they must confront the issue in view of the threats it poses.

[Shahin] Has it actually been proved to you that the foreign quarters you mentioned were involved in the events in southern Sudan?

[Nasir] There is a great deal of evidence. It suffices to mention what happened in Kurmuk. That provided clear proof. The prisoners we captured, and the concentrated bombardment of Kurmuk [are evidence]. What happened was caused by a neighboring country, from within its territory. To permit training on one's territory is also a kind of aggression. The same goes for those who supply finance and arms.

Therefore, the external aggression exists. There is also the material evidence, such as the ammunition and equipment seized. The name of a neighboring country is inscribed on the ammunition and vehicles that have been seized. Still, the biggest proof of aggression is to permit the use of one's territory.

[Shahin] Is it true that forces from outside Africa took part in the battle of Kurmuk in particular?

[Nasir] The training was by forces from outside the continent, specifically from Cuba. The prisoners captured have admitted they were trained in Cuba. We have the numbers of the ships, and the names of those who went and received training abroad. There is decisive proof of foreign interference in the issue.

[Shahin] How can Egypt contribute toward solving the issue?

[Nasir] Whenever we speak about Egypt and Sudan we do not speak about Egypt separately and Sudan separately, but we are talking about a common destiny and common causes. If Sudan should be directly or indirectly harmed, Egypt will be harmed.

Undoubtedly, the same applies to Egypt: If Egypt is harmed then Sudan will be directly or indirectly harmed. They are like a single body, when one of its parts is afflicted, all the other parts care for and protect it. That is the concept that must prevail among all of us who have the same destiny.

No one can say that Egypt can go to sleep when Sudan is suffering. The opposite is likewise true. Once we reach such an understanding, we can cooperate and coordinate for the sake of something which, whether we like it or not, binds us together.

[Shahin] In conclusion, how ready are the Sudanese Armed Forces to face such challenges?

[Nasir] The challenges are many. The matter does not concern Sudan alone. When all its aspects are examined, it is a great burden for the Armed Forces to confront it alone. However, if the matter was internal, such as the war that has gone on for the past 17 years, then the Armed Forces have capably faced it.

Yet, when the aims are clearly seen, one can see that Sudan is merely a starting point. That which is being planned for Sudan will lead to a stage greater than the Armed Forces. All those who enter such a circle must review their calculations. If Sudan should be swallowed now, the next step would be to swallow another country.

I urge writers in Egypt and Sudan to shoulder their full responsibility. I urge them to write always what serves the interests of Sudan and Egypt, to seek to deepen the brotherhood and amity, and to eliminate all that could lead to discord.

Tunisia

Libya's Jallud Arrives in Tunis on Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

LD201816 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT
20 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Al-Marikh [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud arrived last night in Tunis on a visit to Tunisia.

Welcoming Major Jallud at the international airport of Carthage were the Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Mahmoud Mestiri—the Tunisian foreign minister, Abdallah Kallal—the secretary of state at the presidency, the wali of Tunis and the delegate of Great Jamahiriyyah to the League of Arab States.

Staff Major Jallud made a statement to the press in Tunisia.

He said "The meeting amongst brothers is an inevitable matter and is required by the mutual national interest. We need dialogue especially direct dialogue amongst brothers, for through dialogue we could find common and firm will and at the same time reveal the prospects of building up the unity of our Arab nation, the unity of the greater Arab homeland."

He pointed out that this visit is an extension to the dynamism and activity characterising the unionist dialogue being witnessed by the Arab Maghreb.

He added we are hoping to reach the results which may get us to the sought after goal particularly that we are at the threshold of the twenty first century, the era of political, economic and military blocs and the era of intensive production.

Major Jallud said in his statement "We have confidence in our brothers and Arab people in Tunisia... and as an Arab nation we own our will and decision and through clarity and frankness and responsible and conscious frankness we will discover the perspective of building up our Arab nation."

He asserted that the Arab unity is a vital and major life objective and any success for us in the Arab Maghreb region will constitute a major step and salvation for our brothers especially the Palestinian Arab people who [are] subjected to burial while alive and the ugliest repressive and barbarous and savage repression by the Zionist enemy. Also, any action we take and make in this region will provide an incentive and impetus for our brothers in the east and create an atmosphere enabling the masses of the stones revolution to further their steadfastness and confidence in countering the Zionist terrorism.

Major Jallud made clear that the change which took place in Tunisia spearheaded by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is a gain not only for our Arab people in Tunisia but to our people in Great Jamahiriyyah and the Arab Maghreb and the whole Arab world.

He said, "We optimistic as we found out from our brothers in Tunisia and in this new era honestly and proposals and talks on the Arab unity and national issue. [sentence as received] We salute, he added, those who put Tunisia on the right path on the 7th November and their head President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and we hope that all resources in Tunisia will be employed for the crystalisation of unionist action and in the service of the causes of the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf."

He said the 7th November availed the Arab people in Tunisia to create and take off in building up Tunisia, the Arab Maghreb and the unity of the Arab nation.

The decision, he added, to open the borders is a step which shows courage and self-confidence and the belief that these gates and barriers are the territorial big prison which imprisoned the sons of the Arab nation. Hence I salute the Arab people in Tunisia and this change which carry good signs of Tunisia throwing its weight and resources in the service of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Ben Ali

LD192333 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] At the presidential palace in Carthage President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia, received Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. The meeting was attended by Brother Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud arrived in Tunis this evening on a working visit. He was welcomed on his arrival at Tunis-Carthage International Airport by Prime Minister Brother Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, Secretary of State at the Presidency 'Abdallah Kallel, the governor of Tunis, and the Libyan delegate to the Arab League.

Comments on Maghreb Ties, Talks

LD212142 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT
21 Mar 88

[Text] Tunis, Al-Marikh [March] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, before his departure from Tunisia yesterday ending a working visit, held a press conference which was attended by representatives of the Tunisian newspapers, radio and TV and the TUNIS-AFRICA NEWS AGENCY.

During this press conference, Staff Major Jallud talked about a series of current issues that constitute the worries of the Arab states and the Arab intellectuals on top of which was the Arab unity issue and the support for the popular revolution in occupied Palestine.

He said: "We in Great Jamahiriya siding with the masses and masses' freedom and in the end, the Arab nation will not be able to be victorious over the issues of development, socialism, unity and the liberation of Palestine except through the Arab citizen's victory and the victory of liberty and democracy causes."

He explained that he has sensed, during his talks with President "Zine El Abidine Ben Ali", "Hedi Baccouche" the prime minister and all the brothers in Tunisia, all that express, belonging to the masses by nature and siding with them and in the end "the change that took place on 7th of November will enable the masses in Tunisia to press ahead, for the Arab people of Tunisia had enormous struggle, cultural and historic potentials. If it had succeeded on the 7th November in releasing the capabilities of the Arab masses of Tunisia, then that was a great gain, not only for Tunisia, but for the Arab nation and Arab Maghreb."

He added: "We in Jamahiriya felt as revolutionaries and freedom fighters who understand the huge potentials of the Tunisian Arab people full of offerings in struggle and in culture, but such potentials were disused, frozen and the Arab nation was deprived of." [sentence as received] He pointed out that Tunisia had "preserved historically the centre of radiation for Arabism and Islam in the Arab Maghreb."

He pointed out that the media in the previous era "has portrayed us as if we were against the Arab people of Tunisia. We in fact were suffering and in pain because we do not differentiate between the Arab people in Tunisia, the Arab people in Libya or in Algeria. We cannot be against ourselves. Even if there were problems

between us and the previous regime we used to restrict them and do not allow the two peoples to be punished, because that was a dangerous thing."

He said: "The thing that happened during the previous regime was only an illusion and an artificial psychological operation. As a proof, we could not find any trouble in returning things to their normality without decision. Also, my presence here in Tunisia and the resumption of relations are considered big achievement for the benefit of the Arab Maghreb and the benefit of the Arab people in Libya and Tunisia."

He added: "During my talks with brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Brother Hedi Baccouche, I found out that we talk the same language.... I found out a difference in the talks I had conducted in 1972 and the present one, for now I have found the keenness of the brothers in Tunisia towards the Arab nation and their nationalist analysis which were forbidden. As a result, the 7th of November change has accomplished a big qualitative leap in the Arab state of affairs. This is loyalty to the heroic jihad of the Arab people of Tunisia."

Staff Major Jallud pointed out:

"The talk about the unity of the Arab Maghreb remained as generalities. Each one of us understand it in a way. They became so routinely to the point of becoming boring but we hope now—after the change that had taken place in Tunisia and the liberation of the Arab masses in Tunisia and its march forward—that Tunis contribute to the Maghreb unity project that will take us from the general ties, especially now it is the era of implementing the ideas. The ideas we believe in, we must provide the example for. We are optimistic with our brothers in Tunisia for the moving from the generalities to seriously discuss a project that will embody the aspirations of the Arab people in the Arab Maghreb.... If the Arab Maghreb was victorious in the unity and the masses' liberation, then that will certainly in its turn be reflected on the Arab Mashriq. Historically we know that when Arab Mashriq is exposed to danger, help will come to it from the Arab Maghreb."

He noticed: "The Arab masses are now in prison inside regional prisons represented by the imaginary gates and boundaries, passports formalities and so on apart from 40 years of talks in generalities on the subject of Arab Maghreb unity, but now, a golden chance is at hand that a political, cultural and economic unity project may crystallise."

In his press conference, Staff Major Jallud talked about the stone revolution in occupied Palestine saying:

"It is shameful that Arab governments and states remain idle to witness and unarmed Arab people—children and women—face barbarism and brutality represented by

burying Palestine Arabs alive, burning them and breaking their arms while the Arab weapons stay in their arsenals to suppress the peoples and for displays and parades. As a result, the stones have become more successful than the stocks of missiles, guns and tanks."

He said: "We in Jamahiriya call for a serious Arab stand by the Arab states with the Palestine Arab people."

He explained that we must make the imperialist colonialist West understand, "for it speaks with us in an equivocal language in order to preserve its interests. Every now and then it voices sympathetic statements, while practically it supports Zionism, neo-Nazism and terrorism against us."

In this respect, he pointed out that for the first time the stone revolution had proven to the Western public opinion that the Palestine issue is a cause of a people and a land not an issue of refugees and that is a great gain.

He went on to say: "We call for a serious Arab action, because the Palestinians are in no need for good prayers and wishes, they need a serious Arab action using the huge Arab potentials for such revolution by way of opening borders for "fedayeen" action so that the internal struggle complements the struggle from abroad. That constitutes obligations and commitments from states neighbouring Palestine the consequences of opening the borders for guerrilla action."

He added: "If we had used the weapon of oil in 1973, then we must use it again against the states that support the Zionist enemy and withdraw the Arab assets which are strengthening the enemy and the crusading West and invest them in Tunisia, in Morocco, in Sudan and in others. Anyone who keep his assets in the banks of the West—which turn into aircraft and arms to back the enemy—means that he is contributing in the killing of the Palestine Arab people."

Staff Major Jallud stressed on the need for the popular revolution to continue. He asserted:

"This stones revolution has availed the opportunity for regaining the 1967 usurped territories, which is a thing that the Arab armies were unable to do since 1948. Also this revolution is considered a victory to those who believe that the struggle against the enemy is that of existence and not a border dispute."

In this respect he pointed out that there are those Arabs who would like to portray the struggle against the enemy as a border dispute.

He said: "The danger of the Camp David Accords lies in their recognition of the enemy and shifting the struggle's against it to become a border dispute. So, we in Libya said that Al-Sadat is a traitor and that Camp David is a war march not a peace march, and it was practically proven a war march. For after Camp David, the enemy

swept Lebanon, struck against the PLO in Tunis, launched the aggression against Libya and now they are killing the Palestine Arab people and burying its sons alive."

On the call for the convening of an Arab summit, he said: "We support the call for the convening of such summit of which a committee of seven will be formed to head for Washington and Moscow and discuss "Shultz" initiative and assess whether it is beneficial or not. If such a summit fails, or did not convene, we call for a meeting to be attended by whoever wishes to back the popular revolution in occupied Palestine."

[Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1814 GMT on 21 March carries a report on Jallud's news conference in which he states the following on convening an Arab summit: "...We support the call for the convening of this summit on the condition that it would not be a summit to set up a seven-man committee to go to Washington and Moscow to discuss whether the Shultz initiative is useful or not."]

He confirmed that politics and information are not a substitute for struggle. "They create a ground for struggle. But we substituted struggle with politics and information". At the same time he indicated that the public opinion battle is "an important one, but not an alternative to the struggle".

Concluding his press conference, Staff Major Jallud said: "I am optimistic about the future of the relations between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriya and Tunisia. We hope that the next meeting of the high committee will be successful in gaining what time had been lost in the previous period and will take us on a qualitative shift in our relations in all the fields". He asserted that there are wide prospects and that matters have returned to their natural state to advance limitlessly.

Ends Visit, Departs 20 Mar

*LD201434 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 20 Mar 88*

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the Libyan leadership, left Tunis at noon today following a brief visit during which he was received by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and had talks with Premier Hedi Baccouche.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud made a statement to the press during which he asserted his happiness over the visit as well as over his meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and other Tunisian officials. He hailed the historical transformation which have been taking place in Tunisia since November and considered it not only great gains for Tunisia, but for the Arab Maghreb and the Arab world as a whole.

He added: I have found during my talks with the Tunisian brothers a sincere political determination to bolster the process of democracy and freedom as well as to emancipate the Tunisian people's huge potential as a manner which would be beneficial to the whole region, given Tunisia's cultural and civilized flux throughout history.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said that the transformation which occurred in Tunisia on 7 November also represents a big achievement beneficial to the edifice of the Arab Maghreb, to which the peoples of the great Maghreb have been aspiring for many years. A historical opportunity has, since November, arisen to crystallize a Maghrebian project which would start with cooperation in cultural and economic spheres and would culminate in the achievement of the comprehensive unity of the Arab Maghreb.

He concluded his statement asserting his optimism over the future of the Tunisian-Libyan relations and said: Our causes and our two countries' concerns are the same. We analyze them in the same manner, and we have the same problems. Therefore, it was natural that things would be restored between Tunisia and Libya to normalcy in such a manner beneficial to the two fraternal peoples.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was seen off at Tunis-Carthage International Airport by Premier Hedi Baccouche, who is also the secretary general of the Destourian Socialist Rally.

Energy Cooperation Meeting With Libya, Algeria
LD220307 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0000 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] A Tunisian-Algerian-Libyan meeting was held at the Ministry of National Economy yesterday [21 March]. It was chaired on the Tunisian side by Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, minister of national economy; on the Algerian side by Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries; and finally on the Libyan side by Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Services in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah.

The meeting dealt with the tripartite cooperation in the fields of energy and petrochemical industries. These talks, which will continue today, are within the framework of the continuous consultations and the search for the possible establishment of joint ventures.

Gas Pipeline Agreement Signed
LD241311 Tunis TAP in French 1523 GMT
23 Mar 88

[Text] Tunis, 23 Mar (TAP)—A framework protocol agreement for the transportation of Algerian natural gas to Libya via a pipeline through Tunisian territory was signed in Tunis on Tuesday afternoon [22 March].

The document was signed by Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, Tunisian minister of economy; Belkacem Nabi, Algerian minister of energy and chemical and petrochemical industries; and Fawzi Shakshuki, secretary of the Libyan General People's Congress in charge of public services.

The principal officials of the national oil companies of the three countries signed an agreement providing for the creation of a tripartite company, whose headquarters will meet in Tunis to study the project, its achievements and its functioning.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$400 million. The pipeline, which will begin at Oued es Safsaf in Algeria, will pass through Furriyanah, Qafsah, (Shatt Fejaj), Jarjis, Madaniyin, and (Ras Jedir) in Tunisia and will end at Zuara in Libya. It will be 400 km long and will have an annual capacity of 3.5 billion cubic meters.

The Algerian gas will be destined for the Libyan aluminum processing and production industries and will allow the needs of southern Tunisia to be met.

Democratic Destourian Rally Papers Renamed
LD230314 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Excerpt] On the occasion of publishing the two daily mouthpieces of the Democratic Destourian Rally in their new form and under the new names, which are AL-HURIYAH instead of AL-AMAL and LE RENOUVEAU instead of L'ACTION, the two newspapers published their editorials written by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, head of state and leader of the Democratic Destourian Rally. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Says Relations With Iran 'Good' *JN241452 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English* 23 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has said that Kuwait will soon send two diplomats to Tehran to work at the Kuwaiti Embassy there. Addressing the newly-elected board members of the Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) Shaykh Sabah also said that the two diplomats have already been chosen and they will leave for Tehran as soon as the current war of the cities stop.

Shaykh Sabah described relations between Kuwait and Iran as "good" and said exchange of visits by officials of the two countries "is possible." He said that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have set conditions for a dialogue with Iran. One of the main conditions is a demand that Iran should stop meddling in the domestic affairs of GCC countries and pledge not to take hostile actions against them, he added. "If such conditions are met then everyone will be able to resolve problems through diplomatic channels," Shaykh Sabah said.

Asserting that Kuwait is not in a state of war with Iran, the top Kuwaiti official expressed hopes that the two neighboring Muslim states would have strong relations in future. Shaykh Sabah confirmed that UAE President Shaykh Zayid is trying to improve ties between Iran and the GCC. Shaykh Zayid, whose country has good relations with Iran, is acting on behalf of the GCC.

Shaykh Sabah said a forthcoming meeting in Kuwait of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Secretariat, headed by the OIC chairman, HH the Amir would examine progress towards executing resolutions of the fifth OIC summit held in Kuwait in January last year.

In his wide-ranging remarks, the top Kuwaiti diplomat also tackled the situation in Afghanistan, and expressed hopes that Soviet troops would pull out from Afghanistan as soon as possible, so that Kabul can regain its seat in the OIC. He expressed hopes that the visit of Jordanian monarch King Husayn to Islamabad and talks with top officials there would contribute to an early settlement of the Afghan issue.

Turning to home affairs, Shaykh Sabah said that the Almighty has blessed and shielded Kuwait against evils "due to the cohesion of its people and their generous contributions to their needy Muslim brethren throughout the world." He noted that Kuwaitis have built schools, hospitals and mosques, besides offering relief to needy Muslim countries.

Shaykh Sabah called on the new KJA board members to nurture the local press through professional controls "so as to deprive those who seek to harm Kuwait and tamper

with its security and stability." The acting premier paid tribute to the local press and Kuwaiti journalists and urged them to be "the nation's vigilant eye."

Shaykh Sabah disclosed that the government recently formed a committee assigned to draw plans for administrative reforms in all state ministries and institutions. He stressed that administrative reform is not easy, but the concerned parties have to come up with proposals to improve performance in the government sector. He also said the government has appointed a new under-secretary to supervise the administrative reform.

KUNA Cites Interview with Ambassador to U.S. *LD241436 Kuwait KUNA in English 1336 GMT* 24 Mar 88

[Text] London, March 24 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Ambassador to the U.S. Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has said that Kuwait's foreign policy stipulates freedom of political drive in all directions, East and West. In an interview with daily "AL-HAWADITH," to be published here tomorrow, Shaykh Sa'ud indicated that "Kuwait goes to the Eastern bloc as well as to Western countries to acquire arms, re-register its ships or charter them."

On the Iraq-Iran war, the Kuwaiti diplomat said continuation of the Gulf conflict will lead to further destruction in the region, including all the Arabian Gulf countries, noting that H.H. the amir of Kuwait sent messages to all leaders of permanent members states in the Security Council regarding the dangerous situation in the region. He said that the Kuwaiti leadership adopted such drive in view to the fact that "thing [words indistinct] go out of hand."

In regard to re-registering or chartering Kuwaiti ships, Shaykh Sa'ud said the Kuwaiti foreign policy is based on equilibrium, adding that contacts to take such steps included all big powers and not only the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

On the Soviet proposal regarding formation of a naval fleet affiliated to the U.N. to safeguard freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf, the Kuwaiti ambassador said his country was the first to call for such measure, even before chartering ships to the Soviets or re-registering tankers with the U.S.. In 1985, and after many Kuwaiti ships were targets of attacks, Kuwait requested from the U.N. to form an international task force to safeguard navigation in the Gulf, Shaykh Sa'ud said, adding that some countries, including the Soviet Union, said the U.N. can not provide such force.

Concerning the imposition of arms embargo on Iran, he said the Soviet Union will not approve such measure while its troops are still in Afghanistan, indicating that Moscow wants a gradual end to the Gulf war and without interference of the big powers or the Security Council. Shaykh Sa'ud said the settlement process needs more

efforts from the big powers, adding that Kuwait requires from the Security Council to draft a formula that would be acceptable to all parties and permanent members in the Security Council to ratify a decision for imposing an arms embargo against the belligerent that refuses to abide by the ceasefire decision.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Meets With Soviet Delegation

*EA241525 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 23 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, had a meeting in Al-Mukalla this afternoon with a Soviet Government delegation which is currently visiting our country. The delegation is led by Comrade Dinkov, the all-union minister of the petroleum industry. Comrade Chirskov, minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises, is a member of the delegation.

Soviet-Yemeni relations, particularly in the field of petroleum, were discussed during the meeting. Brother al-'Attas highly appreciated the honest, strategic assistance that was and is being provided by the friendly Soviet Union to our country. He expressed satisfaction with the great efforts being made by Soviet and Yemeni experts in the extraction and exploitation of petroleum. He praised the rapid pace of work to lay petroleum pipes and build petroleum structures and installations, whose purpose is to accelerate the exploitation of our subterranean resources for the good of our people and to consolidate our national economy. He stressed how important it was for various bodies to provide facilities to speed up the implementation of this important and vital project.

He expressed confidence that the intimate relations between the two friendly countries and parties would develop in all fields.

For his part, Comrade Dinkov expressed happiness and gratitude for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their visit to Shabwah and Hadramawt Governorates. He expressed confidence that Soviet-Yemeni relations would continue to develop in line with the common principles and objectives of the YSP and the CPSU. He expressed happiness at the development of work to exploit petroleum in democratic Yemen. He confirmed his country's readiness to provide support in this field. [passage omitted]

Ministers Visit Production Area

*EA241410 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 23 Mar 88*

[Text] This morning Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husayn, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier, and minister of energy and minerals, and the Soviet official delegation, led by Comrades Dinkov, minister of

petroleum industry, and Chirskov, minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises in the friendly USSR, visited the area of Bilhaf in Mayfaah Province in Shabwah Governorate.

The Soviet delegation is paying a visit to our country. The group familiarized itself with the area to which oil pipelines will be laid from exploration areas in the governorate, in accordance with the first phase of the protocols of cooperation between the PDRY and the USSR in the field of joint oil exploration and extraction of other mineral resources.

They were accompanied by Brother Muhammad 'Ali al-Qayrahi, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Executive Bureau of the local people's council in the governorate, and Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador in Aden.

Al-'Attas Views Peninsular, Regional Issues

*PM241239 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
23-29 Mar 88 p 22-23*

[Interview with Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, by 'Abd al-Bari 'Atwan in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Atwan] Do you believe that the sentences passed and carried out regarding the 13 January cases have completely turned the page on these events or opened a new chapter in them?

[Al-'Attas] The sentences passed against those involved in the incidents of the failed bloody plot of 13 January 1986, together with the decisions made by the presidium regarding these sentences, have in fact legally crowned and complemented a series of measures taken by the party and state leadership in our country between the time when the plot was foiled and the presidium decisions referred to above were reached. [passage omitted]

As for the second part of the question, I would firmly say that the ugliness of the plot and the fate of its leaders and symbols, as well as the enormous sacrifices we made as both party and people to overcome the plot and its traces, have all combined to teach us a lesson we will never forget. This was clear in the budget document endorsed by the party general conference last June and in all the resolutions adopted by the Central Committee at all sessions. All this proves that such a tragedy cannot be repeated. [passage omitted]

['Atwan] You extended the general amnesty decision three times, but why has the response to date been so limited? And is there any intention of extending it for a fourth time?

[Al-'Attas] I do not know where you get these definite judgments from. Any how, our issuing of the general amnesty decision a short time after the incidents

reflected clearly the political leadership's sense of responsibility, under very difficult circumstances, toward our sons who were misled—those inside the country as well as those who went to the northern part. The triple renewal of the decision emphasizes this fact.

As for the last part of the question, I would like to point out that we issued a comprehensive general amnesty decision covering all those involved in the plot incidents, except for those against whom the Republic Supreme Court passed various condemnation rulings at the end of last year. This decision accords with the aspirations of those who were misled and who have been unable to return for objective reasons imposed by the symbols of the plot. But the doors of the homeland will remain open to them.

[‘Atwan] It is reported among foreign circles that there are differences within the present collective leadership. How true are these reports?

[Al-‘Attas] The circles you refer to wish our country no good and what is being reported among them is not new to us. What they are circulating reflects their ill-intentioned dreams. But they have been confronted by the facts of reality in our country.

[‘Atwan] You visited the north during the September revolution celebrations, but it was noticed that [YAR] President ‘Ali ‘Abdallah Salih did not visit Aden during the national day celebrations in November. Does this mean coolness in relations, even after all that has been said about reactivating dialogue on unity between the two countries?

[Al-‘Attas] Our visit to the northern part during the silver jubilee of the September revolution was made after the visit of the YSP Central Committee secretary general at the head of a high-level delegation. I also met with Brother President Colonel ‘Ali ‘Abdallah Salih during the proceedings of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman. Both parts are witnessing uninterrupted activities among officials at various levels. All this emphasizes the two leaderships' belief in the need to preserve the gains that unionist action has achieved in the past and to search for new forms and ways of developing and enriching them.

As for Brother President ‘Ali ‘Abdallah Salih's failure to visit the southern part on national independence day, it in my assessment does not mean coolness in relations. It was attributable to the brother president's personal circumstances.

[‘Atwan] You have recently restored relations with the Sultanate of Oman. Does this step fall within a new political approach in the Gulf region and overlook ideological differences with it?

[Al-‘Attas] Our decision to normalize relations with the Sultanate of Oman was made in early 1980's. Therefore the establishment, rather than the restoration, of diplomatic relations with it in fact crowns the process of implementing that decision. As for the new political approach to the Gulf region, fraternal and friendly states, and also other world states, it was endorsed at the party's first conference in October 1978; it was derived from the country's past experience.

We are working with the brothers in the Gulf on developing relations of fruitful cooperation, exchanging expertise, and sparing the region various dangers that could threaten its security, sovereignty, and independence. In this regard we are proceeding from common historical relations and ties of brotherhood. We do not seek or wish to impose our experiment on anyone.

[‘Atwan] The uprising in the occupied territories has surprised everyone. How do you see it in Aden? And to what extent does its impact reflect on official Arab political thinking in terms of dealing with the Middle East problem?

[Al-‘Attas] I can say that the uprising in the occupied territories is the second most notable event the Palestinian people have made since the 1948 disaster; the first was the launch of the current Palestinian revolution. These two historic events clearly reflect the Palestinian people's capability, will, and creativity. In my assessment the uprising has come at this particular time to rejuvenate the Palestinian revolution under the PLO, fuel it with popular energies, and protect it from all forces seeking to overlook the gains the revolution has made. [passage omitted]

[‘Atwan] You were among the states that opposed the severing of relations with Iran during the Arab foreign ministers conference which preceded the Amman summit. How do you visualize a way out of this war or at least of preventing its expansion?

[Al-‘Attas] We condemn this war, since we believe it serves no one but the enemies of the Iranian and Arab peoples who are seeking progress, prosperity, and a way out of subservience and backwardness. This is our country's firm and principled position toward the Arabs.

In our assessment, Islamic Iran, which launched a revolution against the shah's regime, which was an ally of the Zionist racist regime in Tel Aviv, can only be an ally of the Arabs. This is according to historical facts and cultural and religious ties, as well as geographical reality that cannot be ignored, and, consequently, the interests of both the Iranian nation and the Arab nation.

This understanding leads us to conclude that we must prevent anything from worsening the bloody tragedy represented by the war in order to end it both peacefully and democratically, that is, via negotiations and dialogue and by giving priority to the main dangers posed

by the Zionist threat against both Iran and Iraq. Within this context and our understanding we believe that responding to various international efforts to end the war, foremost among which is UN Security Council Resolution 598, would provide a realistic way out of this war. Furthermore, we support Soviet proposals for UN forces to protect the freedom of international navigation in the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia

'UKAZ Defends 'Responsible' Arms Purchases
PM241329 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
22 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed editorial: "Why This Uproar?"]

[Text] It is not strange for the Zionist entity to stir up this big uproar regarding the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's obtaining Chinese medium-range surface-to-surface missiles to enhance its intrinsic capabilities for the legitimate defense of its territory and sanctities within the framework of its Islamic responsibilities toward preserving its national sovereignty and independent decision-making. And also to enhance its constant and tireless efforts aimed at perpetuating the concepts of security and stability in the region.

The surprising thing is that such an uproar should come from Israel, which is an arsenal of arms. It is eager to keep everyone in the region very weak while it continues to accumulate arms, thus affecting the balance of power, so that Israel remains a source of threat to the region's security and stability.

Israel is fabricating and stirring up this uproar when it knows that other states and parties in the region also possess what constitutes a real threat to both security and stability, not only in terms of the arms they possess but also their aggressive and intransigent approach, provocative practices, and limitless ambitions and hatred.

Despite all this, Israel is not content with its silence about these states or parties. It has contributed and still contributes to building and enhancing their strength by supplying them with arms, advisers, and military experts, as if tacitly indicating the existence of a new alliance aimed at undermining security and stability in the region as well as the interests of its peoples.

Israeli officials and experts have not given up making statements and claims within the framework of this uproar, or rather this tendentious propaganda campaign, whose dimensions are known to everyone. THE JERUSALEM POST has disclosed that, during his talks in Washington last week, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told U.S. leaders that the missiles must be removed immediately.

Aharon Livran, an Israeli reserve brigadier working at the Tel Aviv University Center for Strategic Studies, said that "Iran is the biggest danger in the region, but nothing can prevent these missiles from being used against Israel."

THE JERUSALEM POST quoted Yosi Ben Aharon, director general of Yitzhaq Shamir's office, as saying in Los Angeles that "Israel is renowned for not waiting for a potential danger to become a real danger."

Despite all this, Israel and others must realize that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, in particular, does understand and is aware of its responsibilities as well as the boundaries of its national security. And that it will pay no attention to any statements, uproar, or pressures. This is because we in this country do understand our responsibilities, namely, to continue our tireless work toward strengthening our intrinsic capabilities in order to defend the homeland, protect sanctities, and achieve a balance of forces in the region. This is because such a balance would be the objective and practical foundation for guaranteeing security and stability in the region.

The strange coincidence is that while Israel is stirring up this uproar, we find some international parties sharing Israel's attitude, which we only understand as an attempt to perpetuate and enhance its strength in the region.

It seems that there is a game whose dimensions we probably do not understand and that these parties confuse what they see as an effort for security and stability according to their concepts with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's efforts to perpetuate security and stability and establish a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the region.

Israel or any other power would be greatly mistaken if it believed that it must be the party controlling the region. This is because the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is a responsible power as well. And such a responsibility urges it to enhance its armament capabilities within the framework of the decision it made earlier to diversify the sources of arms in order to meet its actual legitimate needs under studied development plans. The aim being to strengthen its intrinsic capabilities in order to defend—with maximum force, efficiency, and capability—the homeland and sanctities and meet the requirements of its pan-Arab responsibilities in terms of perpetuating the concepts of security and stability in the region.

True, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom seeks peace and is not a hostile state, since its history and the history of the region and the world do not indicate otherwise. But while it continues tireless and good efforts toward peace, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is aware of and understands the conflicts going on in the region, which pose a serious threat to security and stability. It believes that a just and comprehensive peace as well as the chances of its success and continuity can only be achieved when powers in the

region are balanced and equal, otherwise, that peace as well as those security and stability factors will remain a mirage and an unachievable hope in a world that only respects the strong.

If Israel and others truly and sincerely seek a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace, the ideal way is for them to prove the truth of their intentions, whose seriousness we suspect in view of what is known about them, namely, aggression and hegemony. Proof of this is that chances of true peace have been wasted. Besides, some parties daily overlook the concepts of peace, security, and stability in the region via irresponsible attitudes and frivolous practices which are not only inconsistent with the concepts of peace but are primarily aimed against them.

It must be made clear to Israel and those sharing its opinion and attitude that no power on earth can prevent the Saudi Arabian Kingdom from protecting its sanctities, maintaining the homeland's security and stability, and defending the legitimate interests of our people.

We in this country will not pay any attention to any uproar, pressures, or statements made by one party or another. This is because we understand our Islamic and pan-Arab responsibilities, make our own decisions, exercise our legitimate right to enhance our intrinsic defensive capabilities, and maintain our national sovereignty and independent decisionmaking.

We are saying this in view of our conviction of and commitment to our principles, which emanate from our magnanimous Islamic faith. Almighty God says: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies of God and your enemies [Koranic verse].

We are saying this while proceeding from a policy seeking peace and perpetuating the concepts of security and stability in the region and mankind as a whole. We are saying this in the belief that there must be a force to maintain and protect peace. And if anyone says otherwise, that is his own business.

Yemen Arab Republic

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa, Met by Salih
JN231505 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office today brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. The brother president discussed with 'Arafat the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas in general and in the Palestinian arena in particular in light of the escalation

of the sweeping popular revolt and the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian Arab people against the Zionist occupation in occupied Palestine.

The two leaders reviewed the current international stand toward these new developments in light of the new circumstances brought about by the popular Palestinian revolt against the Zionist occupation. They also discussed the Arab efforts being exerted to convene an Arab summit to discuss ways to support and back the popular Palestinian revolt in the occupied Arab territories. This summit would also review ways to provide this struggle with what allows it to be maintained and continued for the sake of restoring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and to establishing their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

During the meeting, the talks also dealt with the dangerous escalation being witnessed in the Iraq-Iran war and the dangerous threats posed by this escalation to the region's security and stability in particular and to world peace in general in view of Iran's insistence on rejecting UN Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for ending this war. The talks also dealt with the militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

The meeting was attended by brother Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; Dayfullah Shumaylah, commander of the Presidential Guard and Standing Committee member; and 'Abdallah Abu al-Hunud, PLO charge d'affairs in Sanaa.

Earlier today, brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Sanaa on a visit to our country lasting several days, during which he will meet with a number of brother officials.

In a statement to SABA, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], voiced his pleasure over this visit during which he will meet with the brother president. He added he will discuss with the brother president all that is related to the Palestine question, especially in light of these important and fateful circumstances in which we are witnessing the blessed popular revolt which has been raging for more than 3 and 1/2 months.

Abu 'Ammar said: Our people in the occupied territories are challenging with their sweeping revolt the Zionist military gangs, their oppression, and their iron fist policy. He said a decision has been made to escalate this revolt using all means and methods and to maintain it, God willing, until the Zionist occupation is ended.

In his statement, Brother Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the losses sustained by our Palestinian Arab people since the beginning of the uprising and up to date amounted to

190 persons martyred, approximately 6,000 persons wounded, and more than 12,000 persons detained and kept in crowded Zionist jails. He went on to say: The Zionist authorities have recently closed 17 schools and turned them into detention centers. The number of detainees during the past 5 days totaled approximately 3,000 persons.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said this visit of his to our country is taking place before celebrating the annual anniversary of Land Day, when the blessed revolt will witness, God

willing, one of the most important and decisive days in its confrontation of the hateful Zionist enemy which is occupying our land and our holy places.

Concluding, he said this visit also materializes within the framework of the call for convening an Arab summit to support and escalate the uprising. He added he will discuss with the brother president issues related to this subject, to its developments, and requirements. He was received by a number of officials, PLO Charge d'affaires in Sanaa Brother 'Abdallah Abu al-Hunud, and a number of Palestinian revolution cadres.

'Aziz Interviewed; Discusses Loss of Halabjah
JN251013 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
25 Mar 88 p 8

["Text" of interview given to the Jordanian press by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Aziz] I convey to you the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. We thank Jordan and its press because the Jordanian news media in general and the press in particular are one of the major weapons in our confrontation of the Iranian aggression.

[Question] Is there anything new in the Iraqi situation?

['Aziz] In fact, there are issues preoccupying us. Events in northern Iraq cannot be isolated from the Iranian behavior and stands in the phase prior to the issuance of Resolution 598. In February, March, and April last year there was serious action among the five members of the Security Council to attain a balanced, integrated formula to end the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. From the very beginning, we sensed seriousness in the stands of the permanent members of the Security Council and we encouraged this initiative.

In April, we held an Arab League Council meeting and adopted a decision urging the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in accordance with the unanimously approved Arab bases. These bases will end the conflict in a just and comprehensive manner. [passage omitted]

Iran had to do something to avoid a resolution banning arms sales to it. Just as it waged from the very beginning, Iran also wagered that the Soviet Union and China would not approve a resolution banning arms sales to Iran. Indeed, the Soviet Union and China were not eager to approve such a resolution.

However, the Soviet and Chinese procrastination cannot continue forever; the resolution has a diplomatic nature and can thus be dealt with by diplomatic means. We can talk to the Soviets and the Chinese and prove that Iran did not agree to implement such a resolution. Actually, we have already done so.

[Saudi Foreign Minister] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal visited Moscow representing the GCC states. He told the Soviet Union that, according to the GCC States' assessment, Iran did not agree to the Security Council resolution. Consequently, there should be movement to the second stage. I visited Moscow and discussed this issue in detail with the Soviet side, stressing that something must be done in this regard. Afterward, I visited China and many Arab states, including Jordan. I also used various means of direct communications.

I summoned ambassadors and seized the opportunity of the presence of visiting envoys in Amman. All these contacts were exploited to urge issuing a second resolution. Egypt played a role in this regard. Messages were sent to Security Council members. There was assessment that some time in March such a resolution would be discussed by the five member states. Hence, Iran, after its diplomatic maneuvers have been exhausted and after it has felt that such maneuvers may not rule out a resolution banning arms sales to it, has to shuffle the cards.

The shuffling of cards and the introduction of new elements in the stand will evoke the interest of world public opinion, so that Iran may exclude the issuance of an arms embargo resolution.

From the beginning of the war to this day we have been regularly striking at Iranian economic targets. They too have been hitting Iraqi targets. They bombed power stations wherever they could in Iraq. They bombed cement plants, various factories, and dam construction sites. Their aircraft tried to bomb them. Of course, as you know, their Air Force is weak and is incapable of achieving results. Nevertheless, their aircraft have been in action. All economic installations 40 km from the border are within the range of long-range Iranian artillery. They fire, and we fire.

On 25 or 26—I am not quite sure—February, one of our aircraft took off to bomb a refinery 10 km from Tehran. As you know, the refinery covers a vast area. The refinery's production is directly used in the war—gasoline and fuel for aircraft and other weapons. We bombed the refinery. They immediately took umbrage and said that it was bombardment of the capital and civilians, and that they will hit Baghdad and Basra. Months before Resolution 598 was adopted they fired missiles at Baghdad. They fired missiles at Baghdad during the Amman summit and hit a hospital. Earlier they had hit Bilal al-Shuhada' School and a residential area with missiles. They hit Baghdad and shelled Basra.

We realize Iran is trying to shuffle the cards to divert attention away from the Arab and international diplomatic efforts. However, the fact is that the Iraqis were strongly pressuring the president and the leaders to retaliate. This is natural, especially when they knew that we have a missile. The president and the leaders announced the existence of an Iraqi missile that can reach Tehran. Before that we did not have missiles that could reach Tehran. The missiles they took from the brothers reach Baghdad [as published]. Previously we used to strike with aircraft.

The fact is the leadership could no longer tolerate the missile attacks on Baghdad and the constant shelling of Basra and border towns. We agreed to retaliate. Our decision was that retaliation should be powerful, so as to teach the Iranians a lesson to make them desist from hitting residential areas. We retaliated and they were

surprised by the level of the retaliation, particularly as it was directed against their capital. As you know, Tehran is a big and densely populated city, and these types of weapons result in losses.

So they sought to end the strikes on Tehran, but by trickery. They began to talk about ending the war of the cities. We agreed, and on 10 March we issued a statement saying that we are prepared to halt attacks on logical and *quid pro quo* bases. We declared that if Iran attacks border towns and villages, or Baghdad, we will strike. We declared that if Iran hits an Arab capital we, in accordance with our obligations under the Joint Arab Defense Pact, will hit back. Such a commitment by Iraq and other signatory countries is known.

In the past Iran used to carry out operations against cities. We will continue to attack military targets so long as Iran continues the war. We suspended our attacks for 2 days. They attacked Halabjah, killing 13 women and children, and wounding 79 civilian citizens, including children, women, and elders. They also attacked Darband Khan. This means that when we suspend our attacks on their major cities, they continue to attack the people in the villages. For us, there is no difference between our people who are in Baghdad, Basra, or Al-Sulaymaniah. They are all Iraqi citizens.

Therefore, we were forced to retaliate. We were alert to the fact that the second attack against Halabjah may be followed with an invasion. But things took place quickly. They resumed their attack on Sunday and we found that it was an offensive against the area. They entered Halabjah and occupied it.

Therefore, the entire issue revolves around the war of the cities. This war is to mix things up and to divert the attention of international public opinion and the UN Security Council from the basic issue. They are raising a hue and cry over the war of the cities and over the use of chemical weapons. We are well aware that such issues are interesting to the press. The people who want to prolong the war at all costs will use these claims as an excuse to prolong it. Iran is the only party that will benefit from all this.

I also spoke to the foreign press here in Amman, and told them that Iraq's interest is to end the war and that Iraq wants to end it. Iraq seeks to end the war and does not have any interest in escalating it or in introducing new elements that will divert attention from the basic issue of ending the war. Whenever the details or facts about a certain matter are not clear, one should seek the party which benefits from it, as it will be the party responsible for the matter or the one that has caused it.

Iran has an interest in what is currently taking place. There are no efforts to end the war or to impose an arms embargo. We admit that this is an Iranian maneuver and that it has succeeded. However, we are confident that such a maneuver cannot last forever or that its effects

cannot but be harmful. This maneuver may last 1 or 2 days or weeks but will end one day. Facts will remain as they are. These facts are that Iran wants to prolong the war and Iraq wants to end it. God willing, this will lead to the adoption of a resolution that should have been adopted last August. We will be patient and wait for such a resolution.

The current military balance between us and Iran is difficult. There is no doubt that the loss of Halabjah is a regrettable thing. Halabjah is located in a rugged area in the southeastern part of Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. It is a rugged mountainous area and has been an area of disturbances during the war. Members of Jalal al-Talbani's group are in this area and these traitors collaborate with the Iranian enemy. This area is neither a strategic area nor a fortified one. However, strategic points in the Halabjah area are under control and troops in it have been reinforced. The Iranian presence is a formal presence and poses no military threat to the front.

[Question] Do you believe the war of the cities will continue?

['Aziz] I do not believe the war of the cities will continue because we do not want it to continue and they have been harmed by it. The price they are paying in the war of the cities is not to be taken lightly. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Discusses British, Soviet, PRC Stands
JN241505 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 Mar (WAKH)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the British stand toward the decision on arms sales to Iran. He said that in recent months and weeks this stand was good and he has no remarks against it.

In a press interview published in the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ today, 'Aziz added that Britain clearly appreciates the positive Iraqi stand on UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The Iranian side rejects this resolution; hence, the Security Council should issue a second resolution as soon as possible to implement sanctions against Iran, he said.

'Aziz explained that his recent visit to Britain was within the context of the Arab delegation, and was not a private or separate visit. He said he seized the opportunity in Britain to meet with his British counterpart Geoffrey Howe. He also explained Iraq's stand on the war and urged Howe to exert further efforts to approve an arms embargo against Iran. 'Aziz expressed regret over attempts by some international parties to perpetuate the war. He said these parties once again try to take advantage of the current situation and shuffle the cards in an attempt to postpone the implementation of the resolution.

Regarding the Soviet and Chinese stands on the embargo resolution, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: It is difficult for us to say that the stands of the big powers are guaranteed. He pointed out that the big powers determine their strategies and tactics in accordance with their own interests and assessments. He said: It seems that the Soviet Union has not yet decided to support a resolution imposing sanctions on Iran, although it agrees in principle on such a resolution. However, the Soviet Union hesitates to approve this resolution.

He added: We are trying to change the Soviet stand and have the Soviet Union shoulder its full responsibilities so that the UN Security Council will be able to pressure Iran and prompt it to end the war. [passage omitted]

Official Cited on Missile Attacks, Relations
LD250928 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 25 (KUNA)—Iraq is not aiming to humiliate Iran through the missile attacks on Tehran but is pressuring Iran to stop its war with Iraq, Iraqi Foreign Undersecretary Nizar Hamdun was quoted as saying in an interview published here Friday.

Hamdun told "AL-WATAN" newspaper that implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 does not humiliate Iran because it was not adopted as an award to Iraq but to establish peace in the region.

Hamdun said Iraq is pressuring Iran (through the missile attacks) as long as it continues its aggressive approach "and the day when it abandons that approach it will only find neighborly and friendship relations from Iraq."

On the Iraqi-U.S. relations, the Iraqi officials described them as good and said the American side understands now that Iraq has an important role in the region and that Iraq's objective is stability and peace.

On escorting Kuwaiti-owned oil tankers by the U.S. fleet in the Arabian Gulf, Hamdun said Kuwait has the legitimate right to seek such protection to face the dangers in the Gulf waters.

As for the U.S. proposal to form an international naval force to replace the American and Western fleets in the Gulf, the official expressed belief that the idea is impractical and it would have been more reasonable if it had come before the Western fleets were deployed in the Gulf.

He said however, that Soviet-Iraqi relations are good "and we have intensive cooperation with the Soviets."

Defense Minister Inspects Army Positions
JN241457 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy Armed Forces commander and minister of defense, has inspected the I Army Corps sector.

He met with a number of commanders and gave his instructions on the defense arrangements in the sector. He was assured of the strong position of the Corps' units, which is capable of wiping out more aggressors of the Iranian regime's forces.

Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah listened to a detailed explanation on the formidable abilities of the fighters to defend Iraq's borders. They are able to teach the Iranian regime's forces further bitter lessons to go simultaneously with the severe blows directed against this regime by the destructive force of the mammoth Al-Husayn missiles, as they destroy the strongholds of ignorance and backwardness in Tehran and the other evil dens in Iran.

Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for defense affairs, attended part of the meetings.

'Arafat Arrives for 'Several Days' Visit
JN250816 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here this morning on a visit to Iraq that will last several days. The RCC Arab Liberation Movement's office director and members welcomed him on arrival.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique Cites Air Attacks
JN241559 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1532 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,094 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since this morning, the planes of our heroic Air Force have been chasing enemy remnants, pouring on them violent death and chopping off thousands of rotten heads. At the time that this communique was prepared, they had dropped on enemy scoundrels' concentrations and positions 187,000 kg, equivalent to 187 tonnes of highly explosive materials.

Our Air Force carried out 224 combat missions, through which hundreds of enemy concentrations were destroyed, in addition to the destruction of 243 caravans and 508 various vehicles. Our hawks left no enemy concentration without pouring on it Iraqi anger to turn it

into ashes. Our hawks then returned with their planes safely and triumphantly to the homeland. Blessed be the brave men of the hawks of our Air Force on this splendid effort.

We have told Khomeyni and his henchmen and we are saying it today that any attempt to encroach on Iraq's territory will result in their scoundrels returning with torn bodies, if the enemy can evacuate them, or dead bodies buried under earth. Let them go to hell, their miserable abode.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 March 1988

Missile Hits Baghdad

JN241645 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA)—Several children and infants who were sucking their mothers' breasts were among tens of Iraqi civilians who were martyred or wounded when an Iranian missile fell on a densely populated area in Baghdad today.

Eyewitnesses at the scene of the crime said that several infants and children who were martyred were extricated by the rescue team from under the rubble of their demolished houses. Husayn, who was 6-years old, had just returned from his school. He was found dead and his body was torn. Beside his body, 2 feet from him, was his mother's torn body.

An old house, with a family made up of a 70-year old man, his 22-year old granddaughter—6-months pregnant—and her 3-year old child, received a direct hit from the missile. All the family members were killed. A neighboring hospital was also hit. Several children and infants were wounded. Most of patients in the hospital were also wounded as a result of the shattered glass.

A mother, whose son's body was torn by the Iranian missile, preferred to hold his severed hand as witness to the hideous Iranian crimes against children. This mother had another child who was martyred in Balat al-Shuhada' school on 13 October 1987.

An INA correspondent said that the Iranian missile destroyed several houses, shops, civilian property, and civilian cars. The INA correspondent watched the rescue team men extricating the bodies of infants and children, whose ages ranged from 6 months to 10 years, from under the rubble. He said that the Iranian missile damaged a maternity hospital. Several children and their mothers sustained serious wounds. The missile also caused heavy damage to the hospital. He said informed sources stressed to him that preliminary estimates show that the number of those who were martyred or wounded reached 70, in addition to the destruction of houses, civilian property, and cars.

Communique 3,095

JN241801 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1706 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,095 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces, progressing on the road of glory, inflict further losses on the enemies of God and our enemies every time. The following is a roundup of their activities for last night and today:

1. The knights of the helicopter gunships have continued to carry out their heroic missions. They carried out 137 combat missions today. They inflicted on the scoundrel Khomeyniites heavy losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment, destroying 6 tanks, 15 various vehicles, and an armored personnel carrier. Our knights then returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

2. With God's help, at 1527 [1227 GMT] today, two enemy helicopters were downed in the I Army Corps northern sector by our rapacious hawks, performing their duty in crushing the enemy. Blessed be our great hawks.

3. The defeated Iranian regime sent three planes from the remains of its destroyed Air Force in an attempt to penetrate our international border in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our brave men of the heroic antiaircraft force confronted them and downed the first plane at 0749 [0449 GMT] today. At 0938 today, our men downed the second plane. At 1356 today, they downed the third plane. All three planes fell within our international border. They are all F-4's. Praise be to the lofty men of our antiaircraft force. Disgrace and ignominy to the scoundrel Khomeyniites, and glory to free, progressive Iraq. God helps those who help His cause. He is the best of helpers.

4. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 53 scoundrels and destroyed 9 various vehicles, several infantry positions, and a gun emplacement.

5. Four various positions and an observation post were destroyed, an ammunition dump was blown up, and a soldier was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two enemy personnel were killed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

7. Three gun emplacements were destroyed and two enemy personnel were killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. At 1419 [1119 GMT] today, the criminal Iranian regime fired one of its missiles at the city of Baghdad, our beloved capital. The missile fell on a residential area.

It martyred 9 civilians, including a child; wounded 59 others, including 24 women and 12 children; destroyed 6 houses; and damaged 20 houses and 6 civilian cars.

The Iranian regime also shelled residential areas in the cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Al-Qurnah, Al-Uzayr, and Mandali with long-range artillery. The shelling wounded two civilians and two women, destroyed three houses, and burned a house and destroyed another in the city of Basra. The shelling also wounded two women, destroyed a house, and damaged four others in the city of Khanaqin. Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 March 1988

Baghdad Hit Again

JN242005 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA)—An Iranian missile fell on a residential area in the city of Baghdad at 2059 [1759 GMT] today. The missile martyred four civilians, wounded nine others, and damaged three houses.

The Iraqi military spokesman warned that such cowardly actions will not save the Iranian rulers from Iraq's mighty and fatal blows, which will be dealt to the scoundrels and their dens.

Jets Hit 2 'Maritime Targets'

JN250715 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0700 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 25 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Air Force continues to deal painful blows to the agonizing Iranian regime, and to sever its oil supplies, whose revenues it uses for aggression against our country. Our aircraft carried out two successful raids against two large maritime targets off the Iranian coast

[time not specified] yesterday evening, scoring two accurate and effective hits. After carrying out their duties, our aircraft safely returned to base under God's protection and guidance.

[Dated] 25 March 1988

8 Iranian Aircraft Destroyed

JN251240 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1218 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 25 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No matter what the criminal Iranian regime tries to do, whichever course it resorts to, and whatever means it seeks to confront lofty Iraq, it will always face frustration and defeat at the hands of the courageous men of Iraq. Four enemy aircraft tried to violate our international borders over the I Army Corps northern sector this morning. All four aircraft were shot down inside our international borders as follows:

1. At 1020 [0720 GMT], the first aircraft, an F-5, was shot down.
2. At 1042, the second aircraft, also an F-5, was shot down inside our international borders.
3. At 1114, the third aircraft, also an F-5, was shot down.
4. At 1137, the fourth aircraft, also an F-5, was shot down.

All these aircraft were shot down by the men of our ground defenses in the I Army Corps.

At 1059, while our Air Force aircraft were wiping out the enemy remnants, they sighted four helicopters on the ground. The hawks fired their missiles on them, destroying them all.

May God bless the brave men of our ground defenses and the hero hawks of the air. We thank God for this great victory.

[Dated] 25 Mar 1988

Ben-Aharon Views Saudi Missiles, Peace Process
TA250721 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Dayan] We have already heard that you said Israel will destroy the Saudi missiles, unless you want to deny this. President Mubarak is demanding that Israel stop its threats of war and says if Israel hits the Saudi missiles, it will mark the end of the peace process in the Middle East.

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, I heard President Mubarak's statement this morning on the Voice of Israel. I did not make such a threat. One of your colleagues in the Broadcast Authority put words in my mouth. Unfortunately, this has become the norm among Broadcast Authority correspondents.

[Dayan] We have a different norm here. Tell us what you did say, Mr Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] I said that we heard about the missile issue from the Americans, who told us they take a very serious view of the issue, as do we. The Americans also said they are about to deal with this issue to the best of their ability, both in China and Saudi Arabia.

[Friedman] And how should Israel behave in this matter?

[Ben-Aharon] First, the Americans are influential and have very good relations with these two countries, and they should be allowed to deal with it.

[Friedman] And if they are unsuccessful?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, Israel has a tradition of not sitting idly by when faced with a real threat. The question is whether this is a threat or not, and there is somebody who is dealing with this issue. As Minister Weizman correctly said, this is a matter for the Inner Cabinet and the government, and not for the director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

[Dayan] Mr Ben-Aharon, at the end of this week, after the visit to Washington, the return to Israel, and the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks, can the prime minister now say to himself: In March we blocked the American initiative?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I would not use this expression. First, there was no intention to block the initiative. We welcomed it, not in order to ingratiate ourselves to the Americans but in the hope that the United States, which has close relations with all the relevant parties, would get the process moving and that we could start a new chapter

of real negotiations, after the previous attempt—the agreement attributed to Husayn and Peres last April—was not implemented, because it had no chance of success.

[Friedman] Why are you saying that we welcomed the initiative after Shultz said last night that nobody wants to climb on the bandwagon? Following his meetings with Shamir, Shultz knows the Israeli prime minister is against the initiative, even if he did not use the explicit word no.

[Ben-Aharon] You are referring to the letter Shultz left in our hands on 4 March, which details the American initiative. I am referring to the fact that the United States wants to exert all its moral strength and prestige to try and bridge the gaps. Experience has taught us that whenever the United States tries to bridge gaps, encourage the sides, and find the common denominator, it succeeds, whereas whenever it comes with a written and detailed plan and presents it publicly, it has a problem. This is what happened to the Rogers plan of 1969; nothing came of it. On the other hand, when Al-Sadat came and the United States got involved as a mediator, it was successful.

[Dayan] Is Mr Shultz scheduled to return here in early April?

[Ben-Aharon] When we were in Washington he said he may come. He said he will come if it is necessary and if his visit would be advantageous. So far, we have not heard of any decision that he should come.

[Friedman] Shultz said last night that Shamir was against the wrong kind of international conference—not the one he proposed, which would only launch the negotiations, but the one the Soviets proposed, which could impose on the sides. In other words, Shultz has guaranteed that Shamir has nothing to fear.

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, this is indeed the gist of the argument between us and the Americans. The Americans claim they can keep this matter under control, prevent any harm, and ensure that the conference will have no authority to impose. Our arguments are not over the framework of the conference, but rather over the scenario we believe will develop during the conference. We are saying that no such control is possible, and that when a crisis situation develops, even though the Americans tell us not to worry, that they are with us...[changes thought] We cannot participate in such a conference, with its many chances of turning against us. This is the essence of the argument between us, not the framework or outer shell of this conference.

DAVAR Reports Sinyurah's 7-Point Peace Plan
TA241459 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
24 Mar 88 pp 7, 8

[Article by Gid'on Kouts in Brussels: "The Dance of the Seven Veils"]

[Text] The marathon peace speeches delivered by Israeli and Palestinian speakers within the framework of the "Give Peace a Chance" conference in Brussels late last week were significant in themselves, not only because of the composition of the participants and their large number, but also because interspersed in the verbal barrage that swept the hall, the two sides clarified several truisms to themselves that must be accepted.

All the Palestinian delegates acknowledged Israel's existence, although for most of them it is within the country's 1967 borders. Nearly all the Israelis mentioned PLO representation, or at least the fact that the Palestinians should determine their representation for themselves. The Palestinians clarified unambiguously that there is only one leadership deriving its authority from the PLO. There were some Israelis who defended the Shultz initiative, while others talked about a Palestinian state.

The only practical document presented in Brussels, Hanna Sinyurah's "seven-clause plan," appears to be an outline for direct contacts between Israel and the PLO. Be that as it may, the cautious attitude shown by the Israeli personalities toward that plan—Shulamit Aloni "consented" to sign it after 'Arafat does—proves that at the moment, whoever wishes to present clauses must desist from performing the dance of the veils. It seems that the time has come for overt peace plans—whether or not they are accepted, and regardless of whether they were conceived by Shamir, Sharon, Peres, or 'Arafat.

Currently, as everyone knows, in almost all the political camps in Israel—that is, at least from the "sane" center to the left—there are groups that maintain contacts with elements somehow "associated" with the PLO. The Sinyurah document is not the only motherless and fatherless plan circulating these days. The problem is that in the absence of signatures, the plan is meaningless. And since those working on it are not "representative" elements, everything boils down to nothing but small talk on the edge of the volcano.

Following is the plan with principles for an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement as presented by Hanna Sinyurah on 19 March in Brussels:

1. The permanent peace that will be reached in the Middle East will include all the peoples living in the region, including Palestinians and Israelis, who will all enjoy equal rights and opportunities.
2. The attainment of a settlement depends on the termination of the conquest made during the 1967 war.
3. The solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be based on mutual recognition of equal rights to self-determination and peaceful coexistence.
4. All the nations in the region are entitled to live in their own countries within secure and recognized borders, free of threats or violence.

5. All differences of opinion will be resolved in negotiations between representatives of the two parties in a bid to reach a permanent solution.

6. An international peace conference will be convoked with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties involved in the conflict on an equal footing. The PLO will represent the Palestinians, just as the Israeli Government will represent the Israelis.

7. A moratorium on the use of force will be proclaimed the day the international peace conference opens. This will help attain peace. A moratorium will also apply to attempt to create new faits accomplis in the occupied territories aimed at preventing or sabotaging the attainment of peace through negotiations.

The sixth clause, which deals with the international conference, was not in Sinyurah's original printed text. It appeared in the form of a hand-written addendum and pushed the original sixth clause to the seventh position. The seventh clause included another hand-written appendix on the timing of the moratorium: "The day the international peace conference opens." At the same time, the sections on the application of the moratorium to "all violent activities" were deleted.

Abba Eban Comments on Dialogue With Palestinians
PM241042 Brussels LE SOIR in French
22 Mar 88 p 1

[Interview with former Foreign Minister Abba Eban by Jean-Paul Collette—date and place not given]

[Text] [Collette] As former (Labor Party) Israeli foreign minister, you have already had talks with Palestinians on several occasions. What was different about the Brussels meetings you participated in this weekend?

[Eban] They were particularly symbolic because they took place at a very difficult time, at a time when opinion in Israel and abroad is very divided. They demonstrated that it is still possible to bring together representative Palestinians and prominent Israelis.

People like former Minister Zadok, like Mr Harkabi, former head of military intelligence, and I are in the center of the Israeli political spectrum. We are neither isolated leftists or unknown pacifists. The dialogue which has been established here is very encouraging.

[Collette] How do you view political developments in Israel over the next few weeks? Do you foresee early elections?

[Eban] Before all that, before envisaging the next part of our political process, we must make a decision on the search for peace. The next few weeks will be crucial. Neither the government nor parliament has ever given

Mr Shamir a mandate to reject the Shultz plan. As far as I know, the Israeli Government is an institution and is not embodied in one individual!

It must be repeatedly stated abroad that the debate in Israel is still open. At present nobody has the authority to reject the U.S. initiative, especially the principle of the exchange of "territories for peace" which it implies.

[Collette] Do you personally accept or reject the PLO as an interlocutor which represents the Palestinian people?

[Eban] The PLO itself must adapt. We must first define the criteria which would enable it to take part in the search for peace: rejection of terrorism, acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, in their present form, and hence recognition of the Israeli state.

It is often said that we are excluding the PLO. But surely the PLO is excluding itself? I think it is up to the United States to persuade it to abandon its strategy of violence and rejection. Dialogue between the Americans and Palestinians is vital. This is the priority: The problem of Palestinian representation must be solved if we want to solve the fundamental problems.

[Collette] What message would you like to send your compatriots?

[Eban] I would like to remind them that when our state was established, we accepted the idea of sharing the region with the Palestinians, rather than monopolizing it, as we are now doing. Israel is capable of maintaining its domination, but, if we did that, we would lose our Jewish character as a result of demographic changes detrimental to us, and we would lose our democratic character, because a minority would continue to dominate the majority. We would lose all chance of peace.

The Israelis cannot accept the status quo. The key to effective peace negotiations is an international conference.

Tabah Official Says U.S. Pressing for Compromise
TA241329 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 88 p 17

[Report by Qobi Mandel and Yo'av Aviv]

[Text] The United States is exerting behind the scenes pressure on Israel and Egypt to achieve a compromise within the framework of the international arbitration on the Tabah dispute. This was revealed yesterday by Re'uven Aloni, the Tabah administration director, during a tour of Tabah with Haifa reporters.

He added that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Abraham Sofaer [title as published], who is the U.S. State Department legal adviser, is currently on a shuttle mission whose goal is a compromise between the contending parties.

His estimate was that a compromise would eventually be achieved, according to which 50 of the 500 dunams allotted for land development, including the Avia Sonesta Hotel territory and the Rafi Nelson village, will remain within Israeli boundaries. The rest of Tabah, including the public beach south of the Nelson village, will be handed back to Egypt.

Arms Cooperation With Argentina Reported
TA241600 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Mar p 2

[“Exclusive” report from London by Dalya Sharon]

[Text] London—The Argentine tank industry Tansa [name as published] and Israeli Military Industries are cooperating in the production of the VCLC [expansion unknown] armored rocket launcher.

Argentina is manufacturing the body while Israel is producing the launching system for 160-mm rockets. Five prototypes have been manufactured so far. Two are being tested by Argentina and three by Israel.

Sharon Urges Law To Deport Stone Throwers
TA241846 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Israel has lost its deterrent power as a result of the ongoing riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This was stated tonight by Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon at the Press Club in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Waiselboim reports:

After 40 years of independence Israel is once again at war, a war over our deterrent power. We have to use this power against three elements, Minister Sharon said: the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; extremists among the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el; and the Arab armies. We are already at war with the first two, he said. He warned about a war with the Arab armies if Israel fails to restore peace in the territories, rather than relative calm—a formula he disagrees with.

It is not too late to do that, Sharon said, and he was even prepared to say how to go about it. Before doing that, however, he cited the remarks made by Ben-Gurion about the tragedy of the Arabs of Yafa in 1948: All's fair in war. Yafa attacked Tel Aviv and it should bear the consequences.

How does one restore peace, or as Sharon put it, absolute calm to the territories? Minister Sharon explains:

[Begin recording] In my opinion, it must be clear that stones, firebombs, and hand grenades are all the same—and hand grenades are just like any other weapon. It is inconceivable that stones should be thrown at soldiers, that is impossible. The answer to that is not a stone for a stone. Now we have a gravel launcher, soon there will be a rock launcher, and there is no end in sight.

The answer is a law that would deport every stone thrower and I am not talking about thousands of people. I am not talking about countering stones with stones, but about countering stonethrowers with a law—that is what should be done; everything should be much faster. [end recording]

In addition to that, Minister Sharon said, agitating publications and organizations run by the PLO should be outlawed, and the channeling of funds into Judea and Samaria should be curtailed. Some of these funds, Sharon said, reach extremist Israeli Arabs.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

2 Killed, 3 Policemen Wounded

TA241724 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1715 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Here is a report just in from our correspondent Arye Gus: Two local youngsters have been killed in the Balatah refugee camp near Nablus during a riot. Three border policemen and another local youngster were wounded.

Two routine border police patrols were attacked by rioters in the Balatah refugee camp this afternoon. They hurled rocks, stones, and iron bars at the policemen, wounding three of them. The troops found themselves in danger; consequently, the commanders of the two patrols opened fire. As said, two local youngsters were killed by the shots and a third was wounded in the leg. A curfew has been imposed on the Balatah refugee camp.

'Minor' Incidents, Arrests

TA241212 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
24 Mar 88 pp 1,4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpts] Approximately 500 youths have been detained by the IDF over the past few nights, as part of an attempt to quell the uprising. Many of the detainees are being held under administrative detention, according to the new procedure which does not require a court order. The number of administrative detainees has thus reached an all-time record of about 300, according to the estimates. In the village of Dura, for instance, 80 youths were detained in one night, after a curfew was imposed on the village. Some 200 young men were detained in the Hebron Hills villages.

In the Balatah refugee camp, a young woman was slightly wounded by shots fired by a settler in an incident which started when youths pelted a settlers' car with stones, shattering its windows. The settlers then left their car and fired shots in the direction of the camp. Soldiers who were summoned to the scene removed the settlers. In the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, a demonstrator was injured by IDF fire. Scattered minor demonstrations took place in various locations.

A protest demonstration in the Hebron Hills village of Tarqumiyah claimed several injuries before it was over. There were several instances of firebombs hurled at Israeli cars in Samaria, but there were no injuries. In Jericho, busloads of soldiers were pelted with stones. The area was closed off, and soldiers pursued the stone throwers. The curfew on the Al-Jalazun refugee camp has been in force for the past 2 weeks, and reports from the camp claim that the IDF has disconnected the electricity there. [passage omitted]

An Israeli was injured yesterday by stones in the village of Qabatiyah, which has been under curfew over 1 month. The civilian was moved to a nearby military facility where he received medical treatment. An IDF soldier was slightly injured yesterday when the military vehicle he was driving was pelted with stones near the Qalandiyah refugee camp.

Two Molotov cocktails were hurled yesterday at a policeman in the Tulkarm District village of Bayt Lid. No damage was done.

Curfews Imposed in Gaza Camps

TA250843 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] Curfews have been imposed on several places in the territories following disturbances and as a means of preventing more disturbances after the Friday prayers. In the Gaza Strip, a curfew was imposed on the Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, Rafah, and Al-Shati' refugee camps, as well as other locations. A blockade was imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp in order to prevent correspondents from entering the camp.

Curfews, Blockades in W. Bank

TA251100 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent reports that the IDF blockaded several areas in the territories in the vicinity of Hebron and Ramallah today. These places have been centers of disturbances in the past few days. In large towns, the areas adjacent to the mosques were closed today. Curfews are in effect in the Al-Jalazun and Balatah refugee camps and in the city of Qalqilyah.

Labor Party Elects Peres Chairman, Party Leader

TA241542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The Labor Party Central Committee has elected Shim'on Peres chairman and leader of the party in anticipation of the next elections. Only one delegate objected to Mr Peres' appointment.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in his speech Peres called the Likud the camp of intimidation and said that in the upcoming elections the contest would be between the camp that believes in a peaceful solution and the camp that sticks to a status quo with no way out.

The defense minister also addressed the Central Committee members. He said that had Israel accepted Shultz' initiative Jordan and Egypt would have followed suit, with the Soviet Union joining the process later. Mr Rabin cautioned that Israel would yearn for Shultz' initiative and noted that the next initiative would be far worse.

Peres Coins 'Campaign Motto'

TA241910 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Shim'on Peres was unanimously elected chairman of the Labor Party today. This was the fourth time Mr Peres has been elected to the post. More than 1,000 members of the Labor Party's Central Committee were asked to hold an open vote by show of hand on the matter.

After the vote, session chairman Knesset Member David Liba'i announced that only one Central Committee member, Gil Livni, voted against Peres. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports from the session, which was held at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] ['Azran] The Labor Party elected Shim'on Peres its leader for the fourth consecutive time. This evening the vote was unanimous and was shared by all the members of the party's Central Committee. This time there were no other contenders for the post, and the Central Party therefore endorsed Shim'on Peres as leader of the Labor Party.

In his acceptance speech, Peres coined a new phrase this evening, a phrase that now appears to be the Labor Party's campaign motto: Shim'on Peres said that the people will have to choose between the camp of intimidation and the camp of hope. He claimed that the former, namely, the Likud and the right, are subverting peace.

[Peres] The camp of intimidation first of all scares itself, and then it proceeds to sow fear among others, including neighbors. In the end it intimidates the whole world. Every move generates fear in that camp: fear of launching negotiations, fear of negotiations, fear of an interim arrangement, fear of a permanent solution. Thus, fear and intimidation are spread in all directions. This causes paralysis, yet the paralysis is described as a supreme achievement.

Israel will not be built upon paralysis. Israel should decide and move on.

['Azran] Later on in his address to the Labor Party Central Committee delegates, Shim'on Peres outlined the elements on which he believes there is a party-wide consensus: There should not be a Palestinian state, existing settlements should not be dismantled, we should not return to the 1967 borders, Jerusalem should remain Israel's capital, no foreign army should cross the Jordan River, and the Palestinian problem should be resolved within a Jordanian-Palestinian framework.

Yet to achieve all the above, it is necessary to choose between negotiations with Jordan and negotiations with the PLO. Peres reiterated that the Labor Party supports negotiations with Jordan. This, he said, should be preceded by an international conference.

According to Peres, the camp of intimidation forestalls and rejects all political solutions, while the camp of hope guarantees peace.

This is the message Shim'on Peres is waving as the 12th Knesset election campaign banner. [end recording]

The Likud faction in the Knesset this evening reacted to Shim'on Peres' remarks that the Likud is the so-called camp of intimidation. It said that the Labor Party is panic-stricken over the prospects of the voters' choice in the upcoming elections. The statement says the Likud will continue to strive for direct talks that will lead to peace in the region.

Knesset Approves State Budget, Details Reported

TA241953 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
24 Mar 88 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem economic correspondent Amnon Atad]

[Excerpt] The Knesset plenum approved the state budget of 52.1 billion Israeli shekels yesterday after the second and third readings; its supplementary laws were also approved. The budget was approved by a majority, and with the objection of Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Qeysar (Alignment), Ya'ir Tzaban (MAPAM), Ya'aqov Shamay (Likud), and the HADASH faction.

In accordance with the agreement signed by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, and Finance Minister Moshe Nisim prior to the cabinet's approval, the budget approved by the Knesset yesterday is for the most part similar to the one approved by the cabinet 2 and 1/2 months ago.

Following final approval of the budget the Alignment may take credit for the aid it attained for kibbutzim and moshavim, while the Likud may take credit for the approval of its and the finance minister's position to terminate the collection of a surtax.

Even after 6 hours of deliberations, representatives of the Health and Finance Ministries failed to bridge the differences regarding the health budget. It was decided that the Treasury's Budget Department director and representatives of the Health Ministry would hold another meeting tomorrow to discuss the disputed clauses.

For the first time, the new budget specifies the names of institutions given special allocations and to what extent. In this context, 8 million shekels will be allocated next year to 115 secular institutions from the Education Ministry's budget, and another 14 million shekels will be transferred from the Religious Affairs Ministry's budget to yeshivas and other religious institutions. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Holds Discussions With Iranian Envoy

Local, Arab Issues Reviewed

NC241555 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] PSP leader Walid Junblatt received in Al-Mukhtarah today Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian. The meeting was attended by PSP Political Bureau member Ghazi al-Aridi and Iranian Embassy staff. [passage omitted]

Commenting on his meeting with the Iranian ambassador, Junblatt said: All Lebanese, Arab, and regional issues were reviewed. It seems the Iranian ambassador, and through him the state of Iran, understands the dangers threatening the patriotic and deprived ones.

He added: Iran wants to unite the patriotic and Islamic ranks in Lebanon, and it supports all efforts to resist Israel and its agents. In this regard, the Iraq-Iran war must end. The war of the cities must be condemned, because it is a destructive conflict with absolutely no military value. It threatens only innocent ones in Baghdad, Tehran, and other cities. It is a frantic action that must stop, and UN mediation to solve this problem on the basis of UN resolutions must resume.

We condemn military actions that have killed thousands of Kurds in Halabjah. The time has come for the world and Arab public opinion to grant the Kurds their national and civil rights, and to respect this great people, who have made known and historic contributions to the defense of Arab and Islamic rights, from Saladin's time to the present. [passage omitted]

U.S. Efforts Said 'Futile'

NC241801 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] A press statement issued by the Iranian Embassy in Beirut states that Minister Walid Junblatt and Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian agreed during a meeting today that current local efforts, particularly those by the United States, regarding the Lebanese crisis are futile.

The U.S. role, in fact, aims at restoring U.S. prestige in Lebanon following the blow dealt to it in 1983.

Iran's Financial Involvement, Spending Detailed

PM221425 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
19 Mar 88 pp 7-9

[Unattributed report: "Iran Spending \$30 Million a Month in Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] Reports received by diplomatic quarters in Beirut, which AL-TADAMUN has had the chance to read, indicate that Iran is spending \$30 million a month in Lebanon. The purpose for this is to establish firm

support for fundamentalist movements and to enable them to play their political and military role as well as implement Tehran's schemes and strategy.

In these reports the Iranian Revolutionary Guard budget is completely separate from money distributed under the supervision of Tehran's embassy in Beirut. According to these reports, the Iranian funds are spent as follows:

Five million dollars for wages and salaries for cadres and elements of the so-called Hizballah and the mission section [hizb al-da'wah];

Two million dollars for food and medical aid for families sympathizing with the fundamentalist trend;

Half a million dollars to be distributed among "relatives of Islamic resistance martyrs;"

A quarter of a million dollars in aid and contributions for education inside Lebanon;

One million dollars for students abroad, under grants decided solely by a joint body comprising the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, the Revolutionary Guard, and Hizballah. This includes figures who usually are in constant contact and cooperation with Iranian organs in Beirut;

One and a half million dollars for Hizballah leaders, providing that they pay the costs of armed escort and cover the salaries and food of guards as well as their personal and family expenses;

Five million dollars for emergencies, determined by a special council comprising an Iranian Embassy member, a Revolutionary Guard member, and a Hizballah member;

One million dollars for military operations;

Half a million dollars for enhancing Islamic education and spreading Khomeyniist ideas in schools;

One million dollars to be spent on women's activities in order to mobilize the media and prepare women within what Iran sees as the "Islamic revolution;"

A quarter of a million dollars for scouting and charitable associations;

Half a million dollars for Islamic salvation and civil defense teams;

Half a million dollars for the "Muslim Brotherhood" movement, the "Islamic Unification" movement, and the "Islamic Group";

Eleven million dollars as a reserve sum carried from one month to another.

After accounting and payment of expenses, the surplus in the budget of movements loyal to Iran would be \$132 million, whereas the annual budget totals \$360 million.

The reports indicate that the financial ease has begun to reflect on the lifestyle of leading and influential pro-Iranian figures. [passage omitted]

However, the huge sums that Tehran is spending have raised concern and fear within the Amal Movement, since this has affected the process of affiliation with it. A considerable number of its cadres and elements have been polarized by Hizballah.

Such sums have also enabled Hizballah to infiltrate the movement's leaderships and cadres. This has prompted the Amal Movement to be on the alert and to urge Shi'ite expatriates in Africa and elsewhere to double their financial help, on the grounds that the aid Amal receives from Syria is mostly confined to arms and ammunition. [passage omitted]

Within this context the reports indicate that a sum ranging between a quarter of a million and half a million dollars is deposited every 2 months in the account of former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, to enable him to devote his time to political and ideological activities in support of the fundamentalist movement in Algeria. The sum is transferred to a Swiss bank in the city of Lausanne.

One of the reports indicates that a number of Maoists, who originally split from the communist action organization, are now involved with Hizballah and that some of them are active cadres within the party. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Dastinalchian, Iranian ambassador in Beirut, has moreover admitted that his country provides huge sums of money to support the Islamic position in Lebanon and to "firmly establish the oppressed in the face of the forces of world arrogance."

He believes that social and educational aid will help deepen the Islamic masses' awareness and the role Iran plays in Lebanon, so that if international and regional developments should eradicate the Iranian presence from that country, the aid would remain as a link to incite the masses emotionally through belief in the line pursued by the Islamic revolution.

Birri Views Attempts To Create 'Differences'

NC251542 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, has warned against attempts to turn differences over political reforms into differences between the Muslims and the nationalist forces. He said he was sorry that some had fallen into this trap.

In a statement this afternoon, Birri said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to United States has begun to bear fruit in the form of revenge against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in the south.

Minister Birri criticized the failure of the media, including the local ones, to draw attention to the attacks on southern villages, particularly Iqlim al-Tuffah and Jba'. These attacks have resulted in losses estimated at 1 billion Lebanese pounds, in addition to the fact that people have been martyred, wounded, or displaced, he said.

Group Denies 'Silco' Hostages in Raided Base

NC251510 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council has denied reports that the hostages who were seized from the boat "Silco" off the Israeli coast are being held in a Fatah-Revolutionary Council base in Bqusta, northeast of Sidon. This area has recently been attacked twice by Israeli aircraft.

Further Reportage on Israeli Attacks 23-24 Mar

Bases, Ammo Dumps Attacked

NC250700 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The Israeli raid today centered on bases of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council in 'Abrah and its vicinity. According to preliminary reports, 1 person was killed and 5 injured, while press sources in Sidon say that 15 persons were killed or wounded.

A Palestinian official has said that the raid resulted in the complete destruction of most Fatah-Revolution bases, ammunition dumps, training centers in the area, and a prison.

Al-Huss Comments

NC250705 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] This evening Dr Salim al-Huss, acting prime minister and foreign minister, telephoned Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, the Lebanese permanent representative at the United Nations. The prime minister asked him to submit a complaint to the Security Council regarding repeated Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon, including the recent air raids.

Prime Minister al-Huss also contacted Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, and asked for details of the two Israeli aggressions against northeast Sidon yesterday and today.

Commenting on these aggressions, Prime Minister al-Huss said: There is no excuse for this excessive Israeli escalation, unless Israel has lost its senses under the

pressure of the uprising of the Palestinian people. Israel could find no scapegoat but Lebanon and the Palestinian population centers here. This continuous escalation in the air and on land is further testimony to the world of the savageness of Israeli aggressions.

Reports of Resistance Military Operations

Israeli-SLA Patrol Attacked

*NC241550 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 24 Mar 88*

[Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal planted an explosive device on the Al-Aysarah-'Alman road in the south at 1015 today. The group detonated the explosive device when a joint Israeli-Lahd militia patrol was passing, destroying a personnel carrier and killing and wounding its crew. The enemy forces later combed the area.

Bomb Detonated

*NC251522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Mar 88*

[Text] Today resistance fighters detonated an 30 kg charge of TNT attached to several mortar shells as an Israeli occupation forces patrol was passing on the main road west of Dayr Siryan.

Enemy forces shelled Bra'shit, 'Ayn al-Tinah, and Maydun. They also raided the village of Al-Fardis, where they detained one person.

Briefs

Envoy to Chile Approved

The Foreign Ministry has been informed that Chile has approved the appointment of Samir Shamma as new Lebanese ambassador to Chile. Shamma will leave his present post at the Lebanese General Consulate in Rio de Janeiro for Santiago to take up his new post there. [Text] [NC241035 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Mar 88]

Afghanistan

Keshtmand Address at Balkh University Opening *LD211858 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari* 1600 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand at the opening of Balkh University on 19 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Lecturers, students, dear pupils, and noble citizens of Balkh Province, dear guests and esteemed friends:

I have the pleasure on the eve of the arrival of the new year, this auspicious new year's eve of taking part in this grand occasion at the opening of Balkh University.

The new year that begins tomorrow is being celebrated in our country, which has achieved new gains. The national reconciliation policy, as a clear manifestation of the way of new thinking, which was declared 15 months ago, has borne its first and specific fruits. The complete principled readiness and flexibility on our part for a political solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan through the Geneva talks and the goodwill and political realism of the great friend of our people, the Soviet Union, in this direction has become clear in the eyes of the whole world.

The statements by Najibullah, the president of our country, and Comrade M.S. Gorbachev concerning Afghanistan and the subsequent statements by the governments of both countries have left no one any pretext for pretences.

The present demands a sound mind, a realistic approach, and goodwill from the opposition, particularly Pakistan. The signing of agreements in Geneva, which have reached their final phase, could result in the establishment of peace and security in the country, the cessation of interference from outside, the return of the internationalist soldiers of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan to their great and peaceful land, and the return of refugees to their fatherland.

On this new year's eve, we should talk about our gains in the area of the economy and the social and cultural growth in the country. During the course of the year ending tomorrow, in accordance with the assessments made by the Council of Ministers and the Revolutionary Council of the Republic of Afghanistan, the socioeconomic development plan of the country has been realized with considerable and specific successes. Specific steps have been taken to extend a variety of assistance to various strata and sectors of society, including workers, peasants, artisans, state staff, the armed forces staff, and private investors, and almost 4 million citizens of the country have enjoyed an enhancement in their standard of living.

More than 60 important economic and cultural projects began functioning in the course of 1366 [March 1987-March 1988] and almost 260 important small and large projects, the most important of which are the result of Afghan-Soviet cooperation, will be ready for operation.

The war has brought about innumerable sacrifices and great material waste for our people. Thousands of schools and health centers have been destroyed. Great material losses have been inflicted on our country's economy as a result of the subversive activities of the counterrevolution, exceeding tens of billions of afghanis.

However, our national economy is continually developing as a result of the heroic work by our people and with the assistance of our great northern neighbor and other friendly countries.

Dear comrades and friends, today we are witness to a great and pleasing event. The University of Balkh, in which thousands of our boys and girls will enjoy the possibility and fruits of higher education, is being opened. The opening of this university is not only of great importance in solving the socioeconomic problems of our society but it also demonstrates the political and state leadership's interest in the development of knowledge, culture, and education in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The opening of the University in Balkh, which was once the cradle of knowledge and culture in our land and in the Orient in general, is of particular importance. When we speak of Balkh we are reminded of the time when it was called the mother of cities, blossoming Bakhdi and Nawbahar-e Balkh. We recall a civilization on whose battlements noble flags were raised and which was considered a center for thousands of students, researchers, scholars, and poets. [passage omitted]

Now that we have gathered in this ancient city to open a great new cradle of knowledge, the University of Balkh, it is necessary to shed light on the situation in the country from the point of view of education and the specific scientific and cultural developments in the country.

Esteemed friends: Before the April Revolution Afghanistan was one of the most backward countries in the world. According to UN data, from the point of view of higher education, Afghanistan's place was 127th and from the point of view of the number of students, it was 102d among developing countries. About 90 percent of our people could not read or write.

The general education system, and especially the higher education, was under the influence of reactionary circles. There was no planning of the need for cadres and nor were there any specifications on the contents of education. For many years the pedagogic talents of teachers did not show up. There were obstacles in the way of

progressive ideas in educational institutions. The April Revolution, which is the outcome of years of peoples' struggle, introduced the progress of science and culture.

Despite the conditions of the undeclared war, a considerable amount of money is allocated for the campaign against illiteracy and for social programs and the education of children and youths. In recent years the campaign against illiteracy has been considered a priority task of the party and state. This struggle has been transformed into a popular movement. More than 17 million people have learned to read and write in adult education courses over the years since the revolution and 400,000 people are currently attending these courses.

There are 1,330 schools in which 800,000 students are studying. The development of education and raising the quality of education are among the main concerns of the PDPA and the Republic of Afghanistan. During past years specific changes have taken place in the system of higher education regarding equal social and national rights.

Kabul Polytechnic Institute, Kabul State Medical Institute, and the Pedagogical Institute of Kabul were set up as independent educational institutions. In order to develop the southern and eastern regions of our country, where tribes and nomads live, Nangarhar University was established and has expanded over the recent years. Now 6,000 students are enrolled each year in the first years of the country's institutions of higher learning. The number of educational departments has increased over recent years. For instance, there were 62 higher educational fields in 1357 [March 1978-March 1979], whereas these increased to 75 in 1366 [March 1987-March 1988].

Moreover, new fields in the format of introducing new technology into the national economy have been noticed. For example, new technological instruments are being applied in the instruction of geophysics, electrical energy, and motor vehicle repair in Kabul Polytechnic Institute and Kabul University. In Kabul University, specialists of the scientific philosophy of the Russian language and literature are being trained. Similarly, the quality and level of higher education has improved. For example, postgraduate courses in the field of engineering are being established in Kabul University and Kabul Polytechnic Institute.

In institutions of higher learning new facilities have opened. New plans and programs are being carried out there. For the creation of educational references, 183 text books in Dari are being published with the help of the USSR for institutions of higher education to use. It should be noted that action is being taken to facilitate educational opportunities for the various working strata of society.

For example, at the moment every third student is from a peasant or working family. As many as five worker faculties have been established all over the country and

many students are being taught in the preparatory faculty for higher education in Kabul Polytechnic Institute. It should be recalled that 30,000 specialists have completed their education during the period 60-66 [1981-1988] and they are working in industrial, agricultural, and educational institutions, and in public health and the armed forces of the country.

I would like to mention that as a result of the all-round help of the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, we have been very successful in the fields of education, development, and evolution of a system of higher education. The Soviet Union gave Afghanistan 1,830 scholarships for higher, intermediate, and vocational and technical education, and practical work.

Presently, more than 10,000 Afghan students, including 2,000 students in the Soviet Union, are studying in the socialist countries. One of the striking fields of Afghan-Soviet cooperation has been Kabul Polytechnic Institute, which opened in 1346 [1967]. Now the Kabul Polytechnic Institute has become a major institution of higher learning in the country. Other technical institutions are largely exploiting its experiences.

Cooperation between the Kabul University and the University of Berlin has been consolidated. Experts from Cuban and other universities work at Kabul University. I believe this sort of internationalist cooperation enriches the content of education and raises the position of the higher education system of Afghanistan.

There are 3,000 teachers at higher and intermediate vocational education institutions in the country. The state provides convenient conditions for improving the educational status of teachers. In Kabul Polytechnic Institute, postgraduate courses have been available since 1359 [1980] and postgraduate courses also started in Kabul University some time ago.

At present, more than 100 PhD's work in Kabul University and 50 in the polytechnic institute. A large number of teachers have enhanced the level of their scientific education and have become experts. The best of them enjoy a high level of knowledge, are experts in their profession, and have patriotic feelings.

A number of veteran teachers have been appointed as academicians and candidate academicians in the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Afghanistan. This manifests the importance of the higher educational establishments of the country. One of the honors teachers in establishments of higher education in the country enjoy is the fact that most of them knowingly understand the nature of the new policy, national reconciliation, and play an important role in the establishment of peace in the country and in resolving the economic, social, and national issues.

The PDPA Central Committee and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan hope that the scientific collective of the new Balkh University will carry out its work based on the best traditions of Afghan educational establishments and will develop and expand them.

The scientific issues and matters that are being studied in the higher education establishments of the country—including scientific research on providing the country with power energy, on the design and construction of roads, and on agricultural problems—enjoy a special importance in the economy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

At present, the solutions for more than 20 technical and scientific issues have been envisaged in the educational establishments attached to the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education during the 5-year plan. The successful implementation of this plan will play an outstanding role in the national economy of the country.

The northern provinces have a main role in developing the national economy. [passage omitted] Taking into account the economic and social importance of the northern provinces, the PDPA Central Committee and the Government of Republic of Afghanistan have decided that Balkh University will have four colleges, including: agriculture, economics, engineering, and history and literature. Also, the [word indistinct] of the Kabul State Institute of Medical Science should also be formed in Balkh.

The three higher educational establishments of the country—the State Institute of Medical Science, Kabul Polytechnic Institute, and Kabul University will have guardianship over the newly formed Balkh University. It is planned that the professional expertise and life experience of the best teachers will be placed at the disposal of the new generation in this university.

The establishment of Balkh University is a starting point for creating scientific and cultural centers in the country's provinces, which will have an important part in resolving problems in the socioeconomic development of our country.

Esteemed friends, the formation of Balkh University is a just cause and a positive response to the long-time demand and wish by the cultured people of Balkh and its surrounding provinces. Based on the old cultural tradition, the people of these provinces were demanding the formation of schools, seminaries and places of learning. However, until the revolution, deliberate restrictions were created in the expansion of the fields of education and culture and in the enrollment of children in schools.

In previous years, a maximum of 5,000 children were not even enrolled in the first classes in schools of the provinces, but now more than 12,000 children annually,

that is 2 and 1/2 times more children are being enrolled in schools, despite the difficulties and inconveniences emanating from the undeclared war.

Seventeen schools have been repaired and constructed in Balkh Province during the current year, which has come to end. Families are showing special interest in the education of their children and in constant observation of their children's education level and in the construction of schools and literacy. Recently, the people and a number of private investors have rendered assistance to the construction of schools. They have voluntarily put their best houses at the disposal of literacy courses.

Prayer leaders also teach literacy courses in the mosques. These are bright examples of the Balkh peoples' interest in education and training, and in culture and knowledge, in the climate of peace and tranquility.

As our hands get warmer these days with the passage of winter, let our hearts become warm with feelings of peace and compromise. The Asady seminary in Balkh Province enjoys a special form. Its graduates soon will be able to continue their education in the Jamea society, that is, the University of Islamic Research and Studies, which will open in the next few days in Kabul.

Dear compatriots, the education and fostering of children and youth require peace and tranquility. Let the children of the new Balkh study in a climate of peace and security, with the national reconciliation policy and with patriotic fervor and enthusiasm! Let them stay away from evil and corruption! As has been said by knowledgeable people, the opening of the doors of schools and seminaries will cause the doors of prisons to be closed. Let the door of knowledge and work be opened to all so that corruption and poverty will not make any room there.

Esteemed compatriots, the opening of Balkh University on new year's eve, a day before the happy new year's day, and the beginning of the Red Flower Festival, which gives a special glory to Balkh Province and its capital, Mazar-e Sharif, is symbolic of good luck.

To welcome the new year, which we hope will be a year of peace and compromise, a year of work and creation, and on the eve of the hoisting of the sacred flag of Caliph Ali [reference to a religious ceremony in which a shrine's flag is raised on the first day of the new year and remains up for 40 days], may God honor him, who—according to the words of the messenger of Islam [the Prophet Muhammad], was a symbol of science—the opening of this place for science and knowledge is a sign of respect for the sacred religion of Islam, for knowledge and culture, for the just demand of the people, and for the historical and cultural traditions of the people of ancient Balkh.

Dear friends, allow me to congratulate you on the occasion of the opening of this place of knowledge and culture, Balkh University, and to wish the best possible education for its students and great successes for the teachers in flourishing and developing the talents of our youth. [applause]

Amin Receives Bulgarian Trade Delegation
LD242252 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] This afternoon the Bulgarian trade delegation met with Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, in Gol Khanah, headquarters of the Council of Ministers. The Bulgarian ambassador was also present during this meeting.

During the meeting both sides expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral trade and economic relations and pointed out that the agreement on the construction of industrial production projects with the participation of Bulgaria and of Afghanistan's private sectors should be implemented in practice.

Politburo Discusses Formation of New Province
LD241842 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] A meeting of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held this morning. The Politburo discussed the formation of a new province, called Sar-e Pol province, in the area south of Balkh and Jowzjan provinces.

The province covers areas in the south of Balkh Province such as Shulgareh and Char Kent districts and (Fishinbig) subdistrict, and areas belonging to Jowzjan Province such as Sar-e Pol, Tokzar, and Kuhestan districts and Tarkhoj and (Shozman Qal'eh) subdistricts. Its provincial capital is the city of Sar-e Pol.

The Politburo advised all state bodies, the Armed Forces, and social organizations to take the necessary measures in establishing, electing, and completing the state bodies of power and social organizations in the newly formed province; and the coalition and self-management administration by the people should be used effectively to create and activate the local bodies attached to this province.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo discussed the preparations for elections to the National Assembly and pointed out that all the facilities should be provided during the elections to the National Assembly according to the electoral law. The principles of coalition and the democratic nature of the elections should be carefully observed all over the constituencies.

The Politburo assessed the activities of the party organizations of Baghlan, Parvan, Konduz, Herat, and Konarha Provinces concerning implementation of the

resolution of the PDPA's second nationwide conference on the urgent duties of consolidating the unity of the PDPA in conditions of the struggle for national reconciliation. The necessary decisions were taken on speeding up this process in the party organizations.

Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA and president of Afghanistan; Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan; Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications; Muhammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense; and other members of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee spoke on these issues during the session.

The Politburo also discussed a number of other national and international issues.

'Extremists' Attack Villages in Konarha
LD241727 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Extremist elements committed another crime yesterday by using heavy weapons on villages in Konarha Province. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that as a result of rocket and mortar attacks on the villages of (Karare), Dam, and Pashshad in Konarha Province, one of our compatriots was martyred and four others, including two children and a woman, were wounded and a number of houses were damaged.

Briefs

Protocol With Turkmen SSR

A protocol of technical cooperation between the Ministry of Electrical Energy of the Republic of Afghanistan and the General Authority of Energy and Electricity Distribution of the Turkmen SSR was signed today in Kabul. Under this protocol the Turkmen SSR will assist Herat Electricity Zone and Faryab Electricity Zone with equipment worth 500,000 rubles. [Text] [LD230342 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 88]

Bangladesh

Government Decides To Release 875 Prisoners
BK250315 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The government has decided to release 875 prisoners from jail on the occasion of the Independence Day. An official handout says that among the released persons 795 are detained in jails under the Special Powers Act and the rest are under-trial prisoners. The government expressed the hope that the released persons would be

respectful to the generosity of the government and refrain themselves from criminal offenses and activities detrimental to law and order.

Foreign Secretary on Ershad Visit to Thailand
BK231619 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] President Ershad's 4-day state visit to Thailand next week is to promote greater bilateral cooperation in different fields. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka today Foreign Secretary Nurul Islam said the visit is taking place closer on the heels of the second meeting of the Thai-Bangladesh Joint Commission where a number of steps would be taken to enhance cooperation between the two countries in different fields.

Several agreements covering shipping services, investment promotion and protection, executive programs under the cultural, educational and scientific fields and cooperation between the news agencies of the two countries will be signed during the visit.

About relations with India, the foreign secretary said the two countries are expected to discuss the extension of the terms of the joint economic commission, which expired last year. The last meeting of the commission was scheduled to take place in July last, but it was postponed because of India's request.

Replying to a question, the foreign secretary said the two countries are in touch over the issues like the sharing of waters of the common rivers and repatriation of the Chakma [tribal] refugees from India. The memorandum of understanding between the two countries on sharing of the Ganges water will expire on 31 May. The two sides are expected to meet soon to discuss the water issue.

In reply to a question on the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh, the foreign secretary said the two countries are in constant dialogue on the issue and some progress has been made. He mentioned the shortage of necessary funds is a stumbling block toward the transfer of these dislocated people numbering about 2 and 1/2 lakh. Different international organizations and countries are being approached for the fund, he added.

President Criticized by Awami League Leader
BK240756 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER
in English 21 Mar p 8

[Text] Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League in a statement on Sunday called upon the people to observe March 24.

She said that President Ershad on this day in 1982 took over power unconstitutionally. Since then he had been destroying the democratic institutions and values one

after another. She alleged that the present government not only snatched away the democratic rights of the people but also eliminated democracy completely from the country.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury in another statement condemned the attempted kidnapping of Mr Hassanul Huq Inu by some plainclothes men. She demanded immediate release of all political prisoners now languishing in different jails of the country. She demanded proper treatment of those now suffering from various ailments in the jails.

India

Italian Airline Captain Shot at Bombay Airport
BK250856 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The captain of an Alitalia jet airliner was shot at and injured when an unknown assailant fired at him early this morning outside the Bombay airport. The city police commissioner told our Bombay correspondent that the assailant fired three shots at the captain when he was boarding a coach along with 12 other crew members after their arrival from Sydney.

The assailant tried to escape after the attack, but two policemen on duty nabbed him. The police commissioner also said the assailant threw two hand grenades at the police, but they did not explode.

The captain is out of danger. The plane later left for Rome.

Iranian 'Gunman' Captured
BK250906 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 25 (AFP)—An Iranian man shot and wounded an Italian pilot early Friday and lobbed two grenades at Bombay's busy international airport, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The 25-year-old gunman burst into a coach transporting Alitalia airline crew in Sahar Airport's international arrival area and fired four shots at the pilot minutes after the flight arrived from Sydney via Singapore, PTI said.

The news agency said the pilot, identified as V. Santeneillo, was wounded in the stomach and thigh, but the two grenades hurled by the attacker failed to explode. Army experts defused them after evacuating the area.

Mr. Santeneillo was said to be out of danger at hospital. No motive for the attack was given.

Army experts said the grenades were of the same make as those seized Wednesday from a Saudi Arabian diplomat's bag at the airport, PTI said.

Airport security officers overpowered the lone gunman, identified as Abbas Mohammed 'Ali Shahadi, and seized his automatic pistol and two magazines of ammunition. PTI quoted police as saying. The man had no travel papers.

The shoot-out sparked off a panic with scores of passengers trying to rush away from the site, the agency said.

A city-wide hunt is on for a suspected associate of the attacker, it added.

MP Notes Turkish Nuclear Equipment to Pakistan
BK231559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] In the Rajya Sabha today, the government's attention was drawn to reports that Turkey is supplying highly sophisticated and sensitive equipment to Pakistan for its clandestine nuclear programs. Raising the issue, Mr Kapil Verma, Congress-I, said the government should take up the matter with the Turkish Government and persuade it to give up its supply of strategic nuclear equipment.

Pakistani Leaders Greeted on National Day
BK230510 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The president and the prime minister have greeted their Pakistani counterparts on the occasion of their national day. In their messages, Mr Venkataraman and Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries would develop in a spirit of understanding as envisaged in the Simla agreement.

Official Says Golden Temple Situation 'Serious'
BK240322 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The Punjab police have arrested two terrorists suspected to be involved in the assassination of a former minister and the state Congress-I vice president, Jagat Ram, last January. The terrorists are Daljit Singh and Arvinder Singh Khalsa.

Meanwhile, five persons, including a CPI worker and three terrorists, were shot dead in separate incidents in Amritsar District last night. A CPI worker, Sangat Singh, was shot dead in a village under the Beas police station. Three terrorists were also killed following encounters with security forces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

According to an official spokesman, two of the four terrorists, who tried to ambush the police patrolling party, were killed when the police returned the fire near village Chanyari under Ramdas police station. The other

two managed to escape. In the second encounter with the police, one terrorist was killed near village Bhaisi Brahman in Jandiala police station.

In another incident, one person was shot dead by terrorists in village Dhulka in Amritsar District.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said that the situation in the Golden Temple complex is serious. He said nobody will be allowed to defile the holy place. Addressing a conference to commemorate martyrs in Dhudike, the birthplace of Lala Lajpat Rai, near Moga last evening, Mr Ray urged the Sikh high priests to take positive steps to clean the atmosphere in the Golden Temple.

'Big Fire' Breaks Out at Ammunition Depot
BK241258 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] A big fire broke out at the ammunition department of the Central Ordnance Depot at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh yesterday. The fire is now under control. There has been no report of loss of life. The fire, isolated to two magazines, is still smoldering. Sporadic explosions of ammunition contained in these magazines are continuing. Fire tenders were used to control the fire.

This information was given in the Lok Sabha today by the minister of state for defense [production], Mr Shivraj Patil. He said a court of inquiry is being ordered to investigate the cause of the fire and assess the extent of damage.

He said there was no danger reported to the civilian population of Jabalpur town. However, as a measure of precaution, two small villages in the immediate neighborhood of the ammunition subdepot have been evacuated. The minister said that for similar reasons, flights in and out of Jabalpur Airport have been suspended.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference
NC241833 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1720 GMT 24 Mar 88

[News conference by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defense Council and Majlis speaker, with foreign and Iranian correspondents in Tehran on 24 March—recorded]

[Text] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Welcome everyone.

[Unidentified announcer] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. We offer our sincerest congratulations on the new year and on the continuous victories of the warriors of Islam. We also congratulate all the world's Muslims on this auspicious time of year.

I thank your excellency and ask you to address the audience, if you have something specific you would like to say by way of opening remarks.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. I would like to thank the correspondents for having taken the trouble to go to Halabjah, thus starting their process of reflection on this international calamity.

The events of the past 2 or 3 weeks are clearly unprecedented, and deserve our serious consideration. The fact that the residents of the occupied cities owed their allegiance entirely to the conquering forces and were quite happy to see them enter their towns is a rare, or perhaps even unprecedented phenomenon. It is interesting to note that these cities were within the range of the Islamic Republic's artillery and that Saddam had alleged quite recently that we were shelling them. Had the inhabitants of those towns been hurt by our artillery, they would not have shown such sincere feelings toward us. The ruler of those cities cruelly bombed his own people because they did not cooperate with his forces. That, too, may be unprecedented.

The surprising thing is that the news media and international observers, especially governments, do not consider these to be important points. History will judge the calamity of the chemical bombing of Halabjah and surrounding cities, and will put the military, political, and propaganda powers of today's world on trial. Had Iraq been punished last year when it used chemical weapons, as the United Nations also confirmed, this disaster would not have taken place. Instead of punishing Iraq, we saw how NATO members came to the Persian Gulf in support of Iraq and placed missiles at its disposal that it did not have before.

This time, too, we can see by their if's and but's in their reports and judgments that they want to downplay this calamity in one way or another and acquit the perpetrator of this crime. We asked the United Nations to send experts to inspect the scene of the disaster. However, we see that in the United Nations and its Security Council, the United States and France are preventing the dispatch of UN experts. By claiming that Iran may have also used chemical weapons, the Americans have cast the first shadow of doubt. However, the facts are so strong that whoever tries to raise doubts will only disgrace himself.

I am ready to answer your questions, whatever they may be.

[Announcer] Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Unidentified correspondent] You mentioned Iraq's use of chemical weapons against its own people, and to the silence that international forums have maintained about those attacks. If this silence continues, will the Islamic

Republic of Iran employ chemical weapons as a deterrent? And, in general terms, does the Islamic Republic of Iran have the technology to produce such arms?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Thanks to the presence of newsmen in the operational theater, the silence has been more or less broken. Fortunately, reports and reactions are on the rise. If this trend continues, it will be effective. However, should the appropriate organizations fail to take action, naturally, we cannot sit idly by and watch these crimes continue. As we have said before, we have the technology to manufacture chemicals and all the types of gases being used now. Fortunately, until now we have been able to restrain ourselves and not use them. But there is no guarantee that this restraint will continue forever.

[Unidentified correspondent—in English] [Words indistinct] by thanking the speaker very much for receiving us today and for having us in his country, and I hope that we will visit Tehran again in the near future. My first question really just occurred to me now. As we are sitting here I think seven missiles have fallen on Tehran. We have seen streets being very deserted, and we have seen people very scared here. I was just wondering what guarantees Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani can give his people that these missile attacks will stop and what the Iranian Government plans to do to try and stop Baghdad from firing missiles on Iranian cities.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The fact that Tehran is deserted...[Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] we did not want the people to stay in Tehran or in cities that are in danger. We encourage them to avoid danger as much as possible. However, the quiet can be attributed to the new year holiday. If you come to Tehran 2 weeks from now, you will see that it is not deserted. We are worried about those days, too. The resistance of our people is so great that you should come to the Friday prayers to see it. God willing, we will have Friday prayers tomorrow. If you come to the ceremony you will see what the people's attitude is. As for what we will do: In terms of the war of the cities, we will deter by retaliating, and we will give our primary answer at the front. We will make them sorry. The "Val Fajr-10" operations were this sort of reply.

[Tyler—in English] Mr Speaker, Patrick Tyler with THE WASHINGTON POST. The chemical attack on Halabjah occurred during the "Val Fajr-10" offensive. Last year at this time, yourself and other senior officials in the government were speaking of a final offensive. Could you clarify for us what the current Iranian strategy is toward bringing the war to an early resolution on the warfront?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We clarified our solution to the war at the UN Security Council. We said that the road toward a settlement of the conflict would be opened by recognizing the aggressor. Since we did not see any goodwill from those involved, we thought we should

inflict some blows. The "Val Fajr-10" operations were an example of this. I think such actions will continue until we achieve our objective; until the Security Council takes the matter seriously or until the situation is resolved militarily.

[Announcer] TEHRAN TIMES.

[Unidentified TEHRAN TIMES correspondent] In the name of God, the almighty, and compassionate. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you said that recognition of the aggressor was the first condition for ending the war. There have been some overtures recently regarding Resolution 598, and it has been said that Iran intends to send a representative to the United Nations. Has your opinion of Resolution 598 changed, or do you still hold your previous views?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No, we have nothing new to say. Our stand is decisive in that without recognition of the aggressor and the formation of a tribunal for his punishment, we see no new solution. These fresh acts of mischief have made our stand more serious. We decided from the outset of the war to administer justice, and without administering justice, without punishing the aggressor, and without gaining our rights, the war cannot end, under any conditions. If the United Nations proves unsuccessful, we see in ourselves the power to gain our rights by force.

[Lee—in English] Your Excellency, Mike Lee, with ABC News. After having listened to you and having listened to the director of information yesterday, I think we are all familiar with your views on what happened at the front and your views on what you consider to be the role of the United States in all of these matters. I would like to ask a question that deals more with the future, if I may. As you know, some former administration officials in America will soon be going on trial on charges related to conducting business with Iran with regards to arms sales.

First of all—this is a two-part question—can you comment on recent reports that since the so-called Irangate scandal there have been further unofficial contacts between representatives of President Reagan and either yourself or the regime; and, number two, can you see any circumstances—either now or after the war—for normalization of relations between your country and the United States?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As far as Iranian-U.S. relations and relations with Mr Reagan are concerned, the ties that did exist were limited to the message he sent with Mr McFarlane, which we did not receive here. Mr McFarlane asked for a meeting here with our officials, but because he entered the country without our permission, on a forged passport, and we had not agreed to the arrival of a delegation, we did not receive the message. Our other contact was the Bible he had signed and sent.

We have already shown that Bible to journalists. After all that commotion, relations of that sort were cut off, as well. As for future ties, we have always said that the United States is hostile to Islam, Iran's Islamic revolution, and the Palestinians. That is why we do not have relations with the United States. If the United States were to eliminate this hostile attitude and treat this region normally, we could discuss how our relations would be. Today, hostility rules between us and the United States.

[[Purgatori]—in English] (Andrea Purgatori), CORRIERE DELLA SERA. Mr President [as heard], in your view, do you still see any concrete effort by any European country to help you in finding a stable peace in the region? Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We feel that the Western powers, as well as the Russians, do not actually want the war to end. In other words, they do not want a just end to the conflict. They want a cease-fire. They want the hotbed to remain so that the regional arms race will continue. If possible, they want Iraq to win. They would like to see it end that way. However, they do not want Iran to win, either morally or militarily, as that would bring about right and administer justice. And since this is the only way to end the war, the world's powerful countries are not working as they should to bring it to a close. Not only have they failed to make the proper sort of efforts, they actually oppose them. If others try to make such efforts they neutralize them.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to apologize and return to a question asked earlier by one of the correspondents. It was the ABC correspondent, who asked if there were any contacts with Iran after the McFarlane affair.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I said no. There were no contacts after that.

[Announcer] JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

[Unidentified JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent] We had some basic questions that have been answered, but we do have another. There have been reports that the United States, through the White House spokesman, has condemned Iraq's chemical attacks. It is also said that this has been conveyed to Saddam through its diplomats in Baghdad. What is your view?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I also read those reports today. We thank the United States for having condemned this. However, it, too, has committed an unpious act. While making their denunciation, they cited allegations that Iran also used chemical shells in the region. That is a lie. They should present facts. In addition, they failed to make explicit reference to Iraq. They should clearly condemn this Iraqi crime. Any weakness in condemnation will make Iraq bolder.

I do not think there is the slightest doubt that Iraq committed this crime against its own people intentionally and mischievously. We have a document proving that one of Iraq's regional officers informed Baghdad that the people in the area had been asked to take up arms and fight the Iranians but had refused; thus, they should be punished. The answer from Baghdad was that they would be punished soon. You newsmen saw their punishment in the streets of Halabjah, in the hospitals, and in the recovery wards. This should be clearly, explicitly, and decisively condemned. Meanwhile, we should note that condemnation, which is so weak, is not enough. Action should be taken against the aggressor, and that is what various countries are expected to do.

[Announcer] ANSA.

[Unidentified ANSA correspondent] Honorable Speaker, before Resolution 598, Iran was quite actively involved in diplomatic efforts for a political solution to the war. Today, though, the stand expressed by Iranian officials is not decisive, even when it comes to sending a high-ranking representative for talks with the secretary general. Does this mean that the Islamic Republic sees military victory over Iraq as the only solution to the war?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We intend to send someone to the United Nations for talks with the secretary general. But we also have a bone to pick with the secretary general. After all, he has not done his duty as assigned him by the United Nations. He was to send an expert on chemicals to the region, even though we have heard that the United States and France have obstructed this. Moreover, the convention on massacres, which should be invoked in light of the slaughter in Halabjah, has not been invoked. The secretary general should work on that. Nor has he shown the required decisiveness as far as the war of the cities is concerned. He has a duty there. At any rate, we will send someone to the United Nations.

[Unidentified correspondent—in English] BBC radio. Mr Rafsanjani, we have been very much aware of the war of the cities since we have been here, and indeed today—as a previous colleague remarked—we have heard some missiles. Your director of war information yesterday emphasized that these missiles were of Soviet manufacture and origin, and indeed that it is well-known that Iraq has received a lot of weapons from the Soviet Union during the course of this war, which has, in fact, affected the course of the war. Are you planning any further representations to the Soviet Union about the vast supplies of military weapons being sent to Baghdad?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course, we talk with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is currently pursuing a policy of hypocrisy and duplicity. Yes, the Russians put these missiles at Iraq's disposal. We have studied some of them, which we recovered intact. Most of them were manufactured in 1985 and 1986. They used new parts produced by the Soviet Union to modify the missiles and increase their range.

For example, the axle wheel [charkh-e dandeh] in the base of the missile, which was designed for a range of 340 km in the Scud-B missiles, was replaced by a new one, for a capacity of up to 500 km. There are some other parts too, which our analysis indicates were in Russian hands. In any case, they had help in modifying these missiles. We are talking with them. Due to the fact that we are neighbors and have no desire for a crisis in relations, the issue is controlled to a point. However, it remains a serious matter for us.

[(Taylan)—in English] Cevad (Taylan), Turkish television. The Turkish prime minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, was instrumental in negotiating a cease-fire in the war of cities some time ago. The lull did not last very long, though. Ozal is now scheduled to visit Baghdad at the beginning of this month. Would your administration like to see from Ozal new initiatives to bring down tension in the war?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are not sensitive about heads of state visiting Baghdad. We told Mr Ozal, and we repeat it now, that anyone who wants to get involved in this problem should not forget that there will be no end to the war unless justice is done. We are determined to punish the aggressor. Mr Ozal also knows that.

[Announcer] IRNA.

[Unidentified IRNA correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, despite the visit by my foreign colleagues to the fronts and to hospitals in Tehran, the Iraqi ambassador in London alleged last night that Iran was responsible for the chemical bombing of Halabjah. In your remarks, your excellency referred to a document on this. Is it a written document? Will you publish it? Or did the information come from a POW? Thank you very much.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We will study the document, and will publish it, if that does not run counter to our military interests. As for the Iraqi allegation, it is extremely ridiculous and impudent. There are Western correspondents in our country now. They have met with victims of the war, victims of the chemical war in Halabjah. The interesting point is that we have given permission and have told the people of Halabjah that anyone who wants to go to Iraq may do so. But no one wanted to go. Our offer still applies. Any Iraqi who came to Iran from Halabjah and the region will be handed over to the International Red Cross if they want to return to Iraq.

Our Revolutionary Guards, too, were poisoned by chemicals. Some of them were martyred, on top of the people of Halabjah. The correspondents and experts should see the films shot before the bombing. Iraq has made this allegation before. UN experts came and said that Iraq was lying. Iraq is opposed to their arrival this time, too. The documents are so strong and so clear that there can be no doubt.

Well, Iraq is accustomed to committing crimes and denying them, and lacks the courage to take responsibility for them. Unfortunately, it has the ear of its mentors, and that is due to their own absence of conscience. It is interesting—and it should be interesting for you to know—that we stopped our operations and halted our advance in a bid to save the oppressed people of the region. We deployed our hospital facilities, our helicopter transport, and other facilities, to save the people. We were able to rescue tens of thousands of people—between 30 and 40,000—from the region. We brought them into Iran. Ask Iraq what it has done to protect its own people.

[Announcer] RESALAT.

[Unidentified RESALAT correspondent] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. I have two questions. The first deals with the delivery of Chinese missiles to Saudi Arabia, and the second with the elections. Reports indicate that China recently delivered long-range missiles to Saudi Arabia. How has the Islamic Republic reacted to this? And the second question is: As you know, activities for the elections started a few days ago. In light of the fact that your excellency is a candidate and that you are also a member of the central council of the clerical society, could you tell us how healthy elections can be conducted? What is the proper way to campaign?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As for the missiles reportedly given to Saudi Arabia, generally speaking, we favor a strong defense structure in Islamic countries. After all, we feel that this potential will ultimately fall into the hands of the people. The people are both revolutionary and Muslim, and they will use this potential against the corrupt, the colonialists, and the aggressors. At this point, though, we see this as a mischievous deed designed to weaken our morale. However, this too has boomeranged.

Each time such an attempt has been made, it has shown that the Islamic Republic has a suitable response. Our latest reaction was the "Val Fajr" operations, which were in answer to the arming of Iraq with long-range missiles. Those with mischievous intentions were the losers. In the Persian Gulf, too, everyone knows the losses inflicted on those responsible for similar mischief. We are not worried. Even if there are bad intentions toward the Islamic revolution, we can handle it.

As for your second question: Fortunately, the Council of Guardians, the Interior Ministry, the people, our laws, and our experience in elections all ensure that the voting will be healthy, as it has been in the past.

[[Blystone)—in English] Mr Speaker, I am (Richard Blystone) of CNN American television. Our colleague, Terry Anderson of the ASSOCIATED PRESS, has now

been held captive for more than 3 years by people who owe their spiritual allegiance to your spiritual leader. Is there nothing that your government can do now to free him?

[Unidentified Iranian interpreter, translating] I am from the CNN network in America. As your excellency knows, Mr Terry Anderson, an ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent, has been in Iran for 3 years now—in prison, of course, in captivity...

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani, interrupting] In Iran or Lebanon?

[Interpreter] Excuse me, in Lebanon. Some people have gone to the great leader of the revolution and spoken of his loyalty. Are there any hopes for this individual's release?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Generally speaking, we are willing to help in the release of hostages. Unfortunately, those countries with hostages there treat us with hostility. How can we help those who are constantly hostile toward us? We even made a specific proposal to Britain, to the archbishop of Britain, that if they helped in the release of our hostages held by the Phalangists in Lebanon, we would reciprocate and help.

Even though almost a year has passed, they have not helped in any way. They have not even given us news of these hostages. You know that the influence Britain, the United States, and France have on the Lebanese Phalangists is less than the influence we have on the Lebanese Muslims. If they are not ready to serve us in any way, to serve our people who have been taken hostage, they should not expect anything from us. However, we are willing to help—if the hostility between us and these governments were to stop.

But I think the main problem lies with your own leaders. The Democrats, for example, are obstructing the Republicans, fearing that they will be manage to release the hostages. And Mitterrand's clique in France is creating obstacles to prevent Chirac's group from getting the hostages freed, thus gaining a trump card in the elections. So long as your own governments behave this way, it will be rather difficult for us to do anything.

In any case, we are ready to help, provided they create favorable conditions. We would do so without assuming any responsibility for such things as kidnapping, which we oppose and abhor. I think Mr Reagan and Mr Chirac came close to a solution on the hostages, but their political rivals created problems for them.

[[Krause)—in English] (Michel Krause) of [words indistinct] PROFIL from Vienna. Mr Speaker, can you tell us about the strategic importance of the "Val Fajr-10" operation area, and are you planning to advance from this operation area further, for instance in the direction of the dam of Darbandikan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As far as strategy is concerned, the commander of the IRGC, Mr Reza'i, explained it last night. You are familiar with that. He gave a good explanation of the "Val Fajr-10" operations. As for where our next operation will be, that is a military secret. We cannot release that information. Briefly, I would like to say that with the deployment of our troops, we have men all along the border and plans for the entire border. We will make a move wherever we deem it appropriate should the Security Council's efforts come to nothing.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, we have heard that the fifth phase of the "Val Fajr-10" operations has begun. As these operations were launched as an answer to Iraq's mischief, how far will they go, and could this be Iran's final action?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From what I know about the fifth phase, a sensitive height in the region toward the right flank was occupied by our forces last night. The occupation of this height could have a great impact on future activities. As to whether this is our final operation, the answer is no. Our policy this year is to launch continuous blows in order to bring the enemy to its senses and surrender to right. Therefore, we will soon show that both the Iraqi Ba'thists and their mentors will be sorry for the new conditions they have created.

[(Lloyd)—in English] Mr Speaker, my name is (Terry Lloyd) from Independent Television News of London. You hinted a short time ago that with the right sort of cooperation you may be able to help in the release of the British and American hostages. Does this mean, Sir, that you are aware if these people—people like Mr Terry Waite—are indeed safe and if, in fact, you can help and how in their release? Can you confirm, in other words, Sir, whether you know whether Mr Terry Waite is, at this moment, alive or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have made any step, even those concerning information, contingent on the action your archbishop must take on behalf of our hostages in Lebanon. Since he has not taken any step—if he has, we do not know the outcome—we, too, have done nothing. I have no information on Mr Terry Waite now. I am willing—both for him and for correspondents who can be useful, as you are—to carry out a service. But your governments have tied our hands with their hostility toward us.

[Announcer] KAYHAN.

[Unidentified KAYHAN correspondent—in Arabic] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in light of the continuous assistance that certain Persian Gulf states have given the Iraqi regime in its missile and air attacks on Iran's residential and industrial areas, will Iran's retaliatory action include those countries or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our retaliation will be in line with the proof we have on their involvement in the crimes.

[Unidentified correspondent—in English] Mr Speaker, do you regard the British hostage Terry Waite as being in a different category from the other hostages—people like John McCarthy and the American hostages—and if so, what measures have you taken, first of all, to ensure that he is alive and, secondly, to see if he can be freed?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think I already answered that question. A person's feelings toward a clergyman or a correspondent performing a cultural function may differ from his feelings toward a spy or soldier responsible for evil acts. In general, we want to help save the hostages. We see the obstacle in your own governments. You should ask them what measures they have taken that would allow us to intercede.

Khamene'i Urges International Isolation of Iraq
LD242026 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 24, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i on Thursday called for expulsion of Baghdad's Ba'thist regime from all international organizations for its repeated use of internationally-banned chemical arms.

The president said that the Iraqi regime driven by despair and helplessness perpetrated a gruesome crime (chemical attacks on the Iranian liberated areas in northeastern Iraq) against its own Kurdish citizens.

Khamene'i, who was addressing a group of relatives of martyrs, also criticized international bodies including the U.N. and its Security Council for refusing to condemn the renewed Iraqi use of chemical attacks even verbally or through releasing of a simple statement.

The influence exercised by the U.S. and France on the Security Council explains the organization's silence vis-a-vis the Baghdad regime's mounting atrocities, said the president. It is regrettable why those Security Council members which claim to have revolutionary records should be influenced by big powers, he added.

Khamene'i also paid glowing tribute to the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi-imposed war.

Embassy Denies Bombing of Turkish Border Area
LD242158 Tehran IRNA in English 2140 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Ankara, March 24, IRNA—The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran here categorically denied an Iraqi claim today that Iranian fighter bombers had bombed a southeastern region near the joint frontier.

Turkey's semi-official ANATOLIA news agency today reported that Iranian jet fighters had "mistakenly" dropped bombs over Turkish territory near the border region of Harbur while conducting an operation against Iraqi positions.

Iraqi Air Raids Discussed

LD250909 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] Ankara, March 25, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Ankara Manuchehr Motaki called on the Turkish Government to prevent Iraqi warplanes from using Turkey's air space to bomb Iran.

In a meeting with deputy advisor to the Turkish Foreign Ministry Ayhan Kamel here Thursday night, Motaki protested to these mischievous acts by the Iraqi regime and called on the Turkish Government to take necessary measures in this regard.

Motaki also explained the Iraqi regime's crimes of using chemical weapons, and urged Ankara to condemn it and take measures according to humanitarian principles and international regulations, to stop the Iraqi regime from committing further crimes.

In reply Kamel said his government will allow no country to use Turkey's air space with regards to war.

On Baghdad regime's attacks on the Iranian-liberated town of Halabjah as well as residential areas of the Islamic Republic, Kamel regretted that the war of the cities had been resumed despite Turkish efforts. "Turkey opposes deployment of chemical weapons and bombardment of residential areas, which are against international conventions," he added.

Meanwhile, Motaki was summoned to the Turkish Foreign Ministry here Thursday night under the vain pretext that Iranian jets had violated the Turkish air space, and bombed a border area in that country on Thursday morning.

Kamel in the meeting delivered a written protest note to the Iranian ambassador.

Motaki said in an interview that the Iranian Embassy is preparing a protest note to submit to the Turkish Government.

The news of the summon was reported by Turkey's semi-official ANATOLIA news agency, quoting Turkish Foreign Ministry officials currently participating in the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) session in Amman.

The Turkish Government seems to have intended to take political advantage of the issue by raising it at the OIC session.

ICO Planning To Issue 'Baseless Resolution'

LD241528 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Damascus, March 24, IRNA—Head of the Iranian delegation to the ongoing foreign ministers' session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Amman Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri said today that the session has been held at instance of the Hejaz regime and other reactionary Arab rulers solely to condemn the Islamic revolution and Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hoj. Taskhiri in a telephone interview from Amman said that since the start of the session Arab reactionaries have taken hostile positions against the Islamic Republic including the Iranian guests at the meet. "They are intending to issue a baseless resolution against Islamic Iran," he added.

While the regime ruling Hejaz martyred and wounded a large group of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims during the last hajj pilgrimage, the session is feverishly trying to label Iran as the guilty party and has besides supported the Iraqi regime in its aggression against Iran, Taskhiri said.

He said that Iranian delegation after its strongly worded speech on Wednesday walked out of the session and added that Iran is not participating in the meeting at the moment.

Commander Discusses 'Val-Fajr 10' Operations

NC241025 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1744 GMT 23 Mar 88

["Text" of statement by Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the IRGC, on the "Val-Fajr 10" operations, described as "interview"; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. He is the best disposer of affairs. The best to protect, and the best to help. [Koranic verses] First I wish to convey my congratulations on the auspicious anniversary of Aba 'Abdallah, the Lord of the martyrs, and the great national festival of our country, the Nowruz 'Id, to all my compatriots and dear Muslims in our country.

I hope this coincidence of our national festival with the anniversary of a day of uprising may be instrumental in bringing about a major development in the country. I hope that we may be able, God willing, to maintain our prestige, glory, and Islamic and national dignity, to ensure the future of our revolution and nation to eternity, and to secure it with the special blessings of the Almighty God.

The "Val-Fajr 10" operations have immense political and military significance. Politically, we have a record of defeating of U.S. plots. Many were waiting to see

whether or not the deployment of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region would hinder our course of seeking justice. Could this clamor and tumult which had been whipped up in the world prevent us from seeking the lofty values of Islam and the revolution? Would our nation raise hands up in surrender or not? Everyone was waiting to see how we would respond to all these incidents and events at the end of the year.

With divine blessings we were able to give strong military responses on the battlefronts, and to stage the "Val-Fajr 10" operations on a large scale. These operations were on such a great scale that they silenced the world in sheer amazement. Even now many are asking whether these events actually occurred or not—whether they are true. We cannot give a better answer to the world than this: We staged operations in a region that had a population of over 100,000 in the cities of Halabjah, Khormal, Dujaylah, Tuwaylah and Biyarah. It is a very fertile area; whatever nation possesses such a place can reap immense agricultural gains.

All this indicates that Iraq had made important investments in this region, which we were able to seize from the enemy's hands and to liberate in a blitzkrieg attack by the grace of God. About 100,000 Iraqis have been liberated from the clutches of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and are now with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Another important point is the military aspect of these operations. One part of our military operations was the destruction of the enemy. We seized 200 tanks and APC's intact, and more than 500 tanks and APC's were destroyed. Thus, a total of 700 tanks and APC's were either destroyed or seized. We killed more than 10,000 enemy troops and took more than 4,000 prisoners, including some brigadier generals and a major general, who was commander of a division but is now in our custody. We have been able to obtain valuable intelligence from them.

Extremely valuable documents about the counterrevolutionary groups were also seized in the city of Halabjah from the Iraqi intelligence center that we occupied. We found information in the Halabjah center about the many bombs that had been sent to Iran in the shape of dolls, suitcases, tape recorders or typewriters with incendiary material concealed in them. We will explain this in detail to our dear nation. They will be able to see how these events were guided and administered from the Savak intelligence organization in Halabjah.

The enemy suffered extensive losses. The attack was totally unexpected and was carried out swiftly. We were able to inflict heavy losses on the enemy because of the speed with which we carried out the attack. Meanwhile, if we assess this area from another military aspect, we can see that we are situated in territory to the left of

which is Baghdad, and to the right of which is Al-Sulaymaniyah. In other words, we are presently less than 10 km away from the Baghdad-Al-Sulaymaniyah fork. Al-Sulaymaniyah's link with Baghdad has now been completely cut off.

There was a time when we could not reach the Al-Sulaymaniyah-Baghdad Fork, even with our longest-range artillery cannons, but now this important strategic point is within range of our combatants' medium-range artillery. If this fork is cut off, then Al-Sulaymaniyah Province will certainly be completely severed from Baghdad Province. This is one of the most significant strategic aspects of this issue.

Meanwhile, a gate has been opened up in this area for the Iraqi armies, and this gate and these footholds are very dangerous for them. There is a very important point here which I should tell our dear brothers and sisters about. It is that a third front has been opened up for the enemy, after Baghdad and Basra. If the enemy wishes to defend himself here and in Baghdad and Basra, he will definitely need two more armies. That is, he will have to increase his strength by 30 percent, and this at a time when Iraq is in the grip of a social crisis as a result of its manpower shortage, fatigue, heavy losses, and many other factors which cannot be delved into now.

However, a major social crisis looms over the Iraqi forces and is threatening them. With the opening up of a third new front, which endangers the path to Kirkuk as well as the path to Baghdad, pressure on the Iraqi forces will definitely increase. Iraq will be forced to reduce its troops on other fronts, and to redeploy equipment, tanks, cannons, and airplanes. With the blessings of God, all three of its fronts have now been weakened. Our paths into Iraqi territory are today stand open wider than ever before. An example are the latest operations that we carried out over a period of several days. The enemy tried in a most disgraceful way to launch a counterattack, but our combatants had the upper hand and the enemy sustained heavy losses, preferring to flee rather than stand and fight.

I consider it necessary to express my thanks to all our dear Iraqi combatants, including the northern Kurds, the Shi'ites of the south, and the Sunni Muslim brothers of central Iraq for their utmost cooperation in these operations. I also wish to thank the combatants of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, the KDP, the Socialist Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, the Koran division, and the Islamic movement of Halabjah clerics, which was initiated at the beginning of the current year, for our entry into the city of Halabjah.

The Friday imam went there personally and was welcomed by the people. We were, praise be to God, able to gain an important military foothold and a third front against the enemy. Thus we feel that we achieved a major military breakthrough.

Concerning the economic significance of the area, this has been intensively covered by our dear brother correspondents who have been filming alongside the Islamic combatants from the very beginning of the operations. They have shown footage of the region that indicates its economic importance. The main factors are abundant water resources and fertile land which can accommodate many groups of Iraqi forces and refugees.

We invite all the Muslim Iraqi people to gradually return to the liberated areas under the program for their support, drawn up by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We invite them to build up the area for themselves, resume their occupations, avail themselves of the fertile Iraqi land, God willing, and set up a model of Islamic government in this liberated area.

Our frontiers, the border areas between Iran and Iraq, pass over these heights and almost around this colorful area outlined here, and reach the Sirwan river. [Video shows Reza'i indicating locations on a map] Here there is a lake. One of the tributaries of Lake Darbandikan begins here, [shown on the map] in dark blue. This line [the border] extends to the center of the lake and reaches the Darbandikhan dam.

From this side the boundaries extend to the main area of lake Darbandikhan. This entire area, which is very extensive, comprised our operational sector. We attacked from three of our bases here. One was in this general area and controlled operations here. Another base was here, from which we began the descent from above Khormal city. We came down from the hills that consist of stony stretches—very difficult terrain.

We were able to make roads as well as tunnels in these rocky areas, which the enemy had no knowledge of. Our brothers from the Construction Jihad and engineer brothers of the IRGC built them. We were able to cross the area by means of these roads and tunnels. Some divisions launched an attack from a base here, moving down from here. [Video shows Reza'i outlining route on map]

Our second base is in the Guzil area. Our troops moved from southeast of Halabjah and attacked the city. We entered from here. A number of divisions were headquartered at this base, and they came from this side. Another base that we had at (Ab Sirwan) was our Fath base. The Fath base attacked from here with some divisions, and entered from behind the entrance to Halabjah. These divisions fought for 3 consecutive days and nights; our combatants did not rest for a single second, they fought without a break.

The enemy brought a large number of troops and divisions from Sayyid Sadiq highway, that is from Al-Sulaymaniyah to Sayyid Sadiq, and then across these two bridges and into this area. This area is blocked on one side by a range of hills that are difficult to cross, and on

the other side there is a lake. The sector where we fought is located between the lake, the hills, and a stream known as the Zalam. This stream links the lake to the hills.

Our plan to deceive the enemy was a remarkable one. Initially we permitted the enemy to enter with three to four infantry divisions, and one organized [sazemani] division by way of this highway. The enemy crossed the bridge and proceeded in the direction of Dujaylah. From there he went to Halabjah. We then crossed this area with our tanks and infantry divisions and this bridge, completely cutting off the enemy. On one side, he was hemmed in by the hills, and on the other side there was the lake. Since we had occupied the bridge, it was as if the enemy had been trapped in a pocket, and we had closed the flap of the pocket. Then the Saddamist Ba'thists raised a great outcry.

The Al-Sulaymaniyah governor general was among those besieged. He jumped into the lake—perhaps he drowned, or perhaps he saved himself and escaped, with immense degradation and humiliation. On the night we began this attack, the Al-Sulaymaniyah governor general had come to Halabjah and had set up a council for the protection of Halabjah. They were wondering what to do next. The massive blitzkrieg attack of the Islamic combatants on this bridge and from two other bases took place so swiftly that all came under our siege. We were able, praise be to God, to carry out a successful and unprecedented tactic, known in international military terminology as a pincer maneuver [tak ehatel].

Thus we succeeded in conducting this tactic, surrounding the enemy with a remarkable innovative maneuver. Using a minimum of forces and the most basic facilities we closed the flap on the pocket. When this was accomplished, we saw in the morning that 100,000 people and more than 15,000 Iraqi troops were present there. Some were killed, 4,000 were taken prisoner, others jumped into the water and escaped. Every day that we patrol the area, we come across hungry, thirsty Iraqis hiding in the streets, corners, trees, and crevices. They are Iraqi soldiers, and they surrender and seek asylum: We take them captive, increasing the number of our POWs. We think that over the next month or two they will go on giving themselves up.

We believe that in addition to the martyrdom-seeking spirit displayed by our brothers, our combatant commanders had performed a very remarkable action. We trapped the enemy in two other areas. We let him see us in those two areas but we attacked him here. The fact that we made advances on those two fronts but launched the attack here led the Iraqi Army to continue to bring its brigades and divisions here, hoping to block our advance toward other objectives. Iraq has lost this area, and will sustain massive casualties if it attempts to regain it, because of the mountainous terrain.

I must express my gratitude to the brothers of the Army Aviation Division, the brothers in the Air Force, our dear brothers in the Construction Jihad and all the organizations, the transportation ministry, and all those who assisted our brothers in the IRGC and played decisive and important role in the attainment of our victory. Once again, I congratulate the entire dear, resistant and patient nation, and the great imam on this victory. It is indeed a great gift to us, a blessing from God Almighty, on the threshold of the birth anniversary of Aba 'Abdallah and Now Ruz, our greatest national festival. I hope, God willing, that the coincidence of these two auspicious occasions will mark the propitious beginning [of the New Year] for our country.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Baghdad, Basra Struck

LD241656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] In response to today's enemy attacks on residential areas in our country, the IRGC General Staff Command and the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic have issued separate communiques noting that eight surface-to-surface missiles were fired this afternoon at military and industrial targets in Baghdad, Basra, and Mandali.

For their part, the mighty artillery units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ground forces have brought military, industrial, and economic centers in Basra and 'Ali al-Gharbi under heavy fire.

2 Missiles Hit Baghdad

LD241915 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Two more Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were fired at two military centers in Baghdad at 21:23 and 21:25 hours local time (17:53 and 17:55 GMT) in reprisal for the ongoing Iraqi missile and air attacks on Iranian cities.

The missiles fired by the missile unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps' (IRGC) Air Force division, brings to 4 the number of missiles fired on the Iraqi capital since afternoon.

Communique 3,151 Issued

LD241712 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters flew 20 combat sorties from 07:08 to 14:53 hours local time (03:38 to 11:23 GMT) Thursday, heavily bombing Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in the Al-Sulaymaniyah operational theater, northeastern Iraq, said a military communique here today.

The 3151st Joint Staff communique said that all fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on Ba'thist troops.

An Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Val-Fajr-10 operational region in the north-eastern Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah Thursday morning.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched nine cargo ships and oil tankers yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Wednesday in support of the Navy.

Two unidentified helicopters attempting to approach an Iranian oil platform in the Persian Gulf yesterday were repelled by heavy anti-aircraft fire.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses throughout the battlefields in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants Wednesday.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 24 March carries a report on Joint Staff Communique No 3,151, adding: "Yesterday, while defending the areas under their control and fortifying and consolidating their defensive positions, the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force sent out patrols and established ambush and observation posts."]

Captured Iraqi Officers Named

LD241809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The IRGC Joint Staff has issued a communique following the announcement of the names of 62 Iraqi commanders and officers captured during the glorious "Val-Fajr-10" offensive. The prisoners were taken by the self-sacrificing mobilization forces of the ever-victorious Corps of Muhammad, may God's blessings and benedictions be upon him. The communique gives the names of 13 of the more senior commanders and officers taken prisoner from the destroyed units of the Iraqi Ba'thist criminal army.

They are: Brigadier General (Benfi Husayn Mustafa), Lieutenant Colonel ('Abd al-Karim Nasir Sulayman) from the artillery corps, Lt Col ('Abd al-Mun'im Ra'uf al-Mallah) from the engineers, Lt Col (Ja'far Mahmud Hasan al-Musavi), 2d Lt Col (Hamid Muhammad al-Karim al-Samira), Reserve Major (Husayn 'Ali Sangman al-Karim), Reserve Maj (Ahmad Husayn Rajab al-Raqi), Reserve Maj ('Izzat Jasim Muhammad al-Hayavi), Reserve Maj (Mu'ayyid 'Abd al-'Aziz Rahawi), Reserve

Maj ('Abd al-Wahab Ghazzal 'Alwan), Reserve Maj (Aman Jawab Habib), Reserve Maj (Muhammad Gozar Murad), and (Yahya 'Abd al-'Aziz Babarasul), commander of Halabjah.

Loss of Aircraft Denied

LD241847 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT
24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) on Monday categorically refuted an Iraqi claim of downing Iranian warplanes and helicopters as "pure fabrication." The WIH spokesman said that all Iranian warplanes and helicopters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their destructive missions against Iraqi troop positions.

Iraqi Counterattack Repelled

LD251023 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT
25 Mar 88

[Text] Val-Fajr-10 Operational Theater, March 25, IRNA—Iranian forces beat back an Iraqi counter-offensive on Rishan strategic heights in this operational theater this morning.

During the operations two battalions of Infantry Brigade 702 and two battalions of Infantry Brigade 606 of the Iraqi forces were routed by 70 percent and Infantry Brigade 434 affiliated to Iraq's Seventh Corps dispatched to the region from the southern Al-Faw region was destroyed by 80 percent.

More than 500 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and several tanks and personnel carriers of the enemy were destroyed by heavy artillery fire of the Muslim forces.

Meanwhile, commander of the Brigade 68 of Iraqi Special Forces Colonel Tariq Muhammad Hamdan from Baghdad and his deputy Muhsin Sa'dun al-Sa'dun, a Tikrit native, sank in Darbandikan Lake while they were fleeing from the Iranian combatants.

The report was disclosed by commanders of the First and Second Battalions of the Brigade 68 who were captured by the Muslim combatants in the course of Val-Fajr-10 operations.

Air Raids Launched

LD251140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the selfless pilots of the Islamic Republic's Air Force have conducted three successful air raids. The missions, launched at 0820, 0825, and 0830 today, involved several fighter-bombers. The

actions were directed against the supply line, fortifications, and troop concentrations of the Zionist Iraqi regime's forces in the Al-'Amarah operational sector. The enemy suffered heavy losses and casualties.

Our brave and fast-flying pilots have also continued their crushing missions against the weak enemy's forces in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational area. They flew 11 separate missions at 0757, 0909, 0924, 0955, 1030, 1110, 1135, 1140, 1205, 1220, and 1225 today, and bombed enemy armor and troop concentrations in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational theater. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the criminal enemy, they all returned safely to base.

The same report notes that four enemy aircraft were targeted and downed by the Islamic Republic's powerful anti-aircraft units at 0850, 0910, 1113, and 1236 today. The actions occurred in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational sector, and the pilots of the downed planes were killed. The corpse of one pilot was found near the wreckage of an aircraft.

Basra, Khanaqin Shelled

LD251150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced: The brave troops of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have continued their deterrent operations, and have answered yesterday's enemy attacks on residential areas in our country. They fired four surface-to-surface missiles this morning at military and economic installations in the cities of Basra and Khanaqin.

Between 1700 yesterday and 0800 today, the long-range artillery of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran turned its heavy fire against military and economic facilities in the cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Banmil, Naft Khaneh, and Mandali. The forces of the Iraqi regime suffered many losses and other casualties.

Pakistan

Further on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

Feted at Luncheon

BK241647 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, and King Husayn of Jordan have reaffirmed their commitment to shared principles and common stands on issues facing the Islamic world.

Speaking at a lunch given by the prime minister in honor of the Jordanian monarch in Rawalpindi today, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said both Pakistan and Jordan are unequivocally committed to regional and global peace and negotiated settlement of disputes. They truly

uphold the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of states and the right of all people to determine their own destiny. He emphasized that their principled stand on the Afghanistan issue is the manifestation of their common belief.

The prime minister commended King Husayn's efforts for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and expressed confidence that his efforts will bear fruit.

King Husayn in his speech lauded the progress achieved by Pakistan in various fields and observed that it was a sense of pride for the entire ummah [Islamic community]. He invited the president and the prime minister of Pakistan to visit Jordan.

The lunch was attended among others by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Jordanian prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i.

King Husayn attended a civic reception given in his honor at the historic Shalimar Garden in Lahore this evening. Replying to the address of welcome, King Husayn spoke of the strong ties of brotherhood between Pakistan and Jordan and expressed confidence that they will succeed in making all contributions for a better future for themselves and the Muslim ummah.

He also spoke of the educational opportunities being extended in Lahore for Jordanians over the years. He said he has great love and affection for Pakistan. He also expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him in Lahore.

Earlier, the mayor of Lahore, Mian Mohammad Azhar, in his welcome address referred to the Pakistan-Jordan brotherly relations and the important role the Jordanian monarch has been playing for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories.

He also presented to the king the key to the city of Lahore and some other gifts. Queen Nur al-Husayn, the prime minister of Jordan, some members of King Husayn's entourage, the Punjab governor and chief minister were also present.

Visits Aeronautical Complex

*BK241645 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 24 Mar 88*

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has said he has been impressed to see the progress made by Pakistan in the field of aeronautical engineering. He said this during his visit to the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex at Kamra today. He appreciated the technical capability of the complex for rebuilding different types of fighting aircraft. This, he said, would not only benefit Pakistan, but also help meet the requirements of other Muslim countries.

Earlier, on arrival, the director general of the complex, Air Vice Marshal Faruq Ahmad, gave a detailed briefing on achievements and future plans of the complex. Later, the Jordanian monarch went round various workshops and inquired about various stages of overhauling of the aircraft. The king was accompanied by his prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, and the (?chief of) Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Antiaircraft Gun Ammunition Factory Inaugurated

*BK191550 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 19 Mar 88*

[Text] A factory to manufacture ammunition for the antiaircraft gun was inaugurated at (Sandawal) today. The factory has been set up with Chinese assistance. At the inauguration ceremony, China was represented by a delegation led by Lu Xuejian, the vice minister for foreign economic relations and trade, now visiting Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, General Akhtar Abdul Rahman Khan, the Joint Chiefs of Staff committee chairman, said that in addition to meeting country's needs, the Pakistan Ordnance Factory products are also being exported to several friendly countries.

In his speech, the Chinese vice minister said that the Chinese people are always ready to assist their Pakistani counterparts in every field and that they want to see Pakistan become a more prosperous and stronger nation in the years to come.

The Radio Pakistan correspondent says that the Joint Chiefs of Staff committee chairman announced a grant of 1 million rupees for the welfare of the workers of this factory.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Political Adviser Flees From 'Cadres'

*BK221146 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1058 GMT 22 Mar 88*

[?OANA/Pool? Item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—The LTTE's political adviser, Anton Balasingham, had fled northern Sri Lanka for fear that he will be killed by LTTE cadres who are disillusioned and of the view that they are in this sad plight today due to the political advice he has been giving LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, now himself fleeing from Indian troops in northern Sri Lanka.

According to reports reaching LANKA PUWATH from south India, Anton Balasingham, the bespectacled translator, who acquired a doctorate in England and who was first employed by Velupillai Prabhakaran to write inflammatory LTTE pamphlets from his flat in London, fled Madras when the heat was applied on the LTTE.

However, now that the heat is on in northern Sri Lanka too and as he is in imminent danger of being killed by his own cadres, Balasingham a few nights ago had travelled in a smuggler's speedboat to the South Indian coastal village of Madagal.

Meanwhile, the Indian newspaper, HINDU, in its Monday edition quoting informed sources in Jaffna states that the LTTE theoretician, Anton Balasingham, had escaped to Tamil Nadu by a smuggler's boat from Madagal in the peninsula. He had narrowly escaped IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] security forces twice.

According to the sources, Kittu [the former Jaffna unit commander of the LTTE] might be receiving counsel from Balasingham in his current talks with the Indian officials.

10 Die in Batticaloa Violence; Curfew Continues
*BK241542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT
24 Mar 88*

[Text] Colombo, March 24 (AFP)—An indefinite curfew continued for a second day Thursday in the eastern Sri Lankan town of Batticaloa as violence claimed 10 victims, officials said.

The Indian Army killed five Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas overnight Wednesday, the Indian High Commission (Embassy) said here.

Two were killed in eastern Batticaloa District, two in northeastern Mullaitivu and one in northern Vavuniya District, a spokeswoman said.

One LTTE cadre committed suicide by swallowing cyanide in Mullaitivu when Indian troops tried to capture him, she said.

The LTTE set off a land mine in a Batticaloa village Monday, killing an Indian officer and one soldier, she said, quoting reports reaching here Thursday.

Indian troops Thursday continued to patrol and search houses in Batticaloa, a day after a gunbattle with the LTTE at the city's main police station left nine people wounded, residents said.

LTTE guerrillas attacked the police station, sparking off a three-hour fire-fight with police and Indian troops, witnesses said.

The army then imposed an indefinite curfew.

Meanwhile, a strike called by Tamil militants to demand the release of 900 comrades imprisoned during the Tamil separatist campaign paralysed the northern town of Vavuniya, 250 kilometres (160 miles) from here, witnesses said.

The strike was organised by the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), both of which oppose the LTTE.

All shops were closed and public transport came to a halt, witnesses said, adding that even cyclists were being forced to walk by the militants. They reported no violence.

Indian soldiers were patrolling Vavuniya's streets but not preventing the militants from enforcing the strike, one resident said when contacted by telephone.

Most of the imprisoned militants belong to TELO, EPRLF and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE).

The LTTE has accused Indian troops of backing militant groups opposed to it.

A Sinhalese extremist was killed Thursday after he shot dead a ruling United National Party candidate in provincial elections scheduled for April, police said.

A lone killer belonging to the outlawed Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) shot dead K. Balasuriya at Kurunegala in northwest Sri Lanka, a police spokesman said.

But the candidate's son shot the man dead as he escaped on a bicycle.

The elections are being held under the provisions of the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord intended to end the Tamil separatist campaign.

The accord has been rejected by the LTTE, the most powerful Tamil rebel group, and is also opposed by the JVP.

India has deployed 52,000 soldiers in the island's north and east to implement the agreement.

More than 390 Indian soldiers and 1,360 suspected Tamil rebels have died since New Delhi launched an offensive in October to disarm the LTTE.

UNP Candidate Killed; Muslim Homes Burned
*BK250318 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Mar 88*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a ruling United National Party candidate for the northwestern province in the forthcoming elections to the provincial councils was killed yesterday in Karnagalla District. The candidate, Mr P.M.K. Balasuriya, was shot dead at his residence by two gunmen. One of the assailants was later killed by Mr Balasuriya's son.

Three home guards were also shot dead in two separate incidents in the same district yesterday.

In the eastern Batticaloa District, four LTTE men were killed in two separate encounters with the PKF [Peace-keeping Force].

In the northern Mullaitivu District, one LTTE activist consumed cyanide when PKF chased and captured him.

In the eastern Amparai District, a large number of houses of Muslims were burned down by unknown

armed men during the last 2 days near (Digabaria). Over 2,000 Muslim refugees have shifted to Akkaraipattu, a predominantly Muslim area.

Jayewardene Swears in Rehabilitation Minister
BK231141 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Education Services and Rehabilitation Minister Lionel Jayatilleke was sworn in as the minister of rehabilitation and reconstruction before President Jayewardene yesterday. This is a cabinet portfolio.